

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1882.

The Week.

THE pretence of some of the Democrats that they are willing to be "doctrinaire" on matters connected with civil-service reform, was curiously illustrated in Mr. Pugh's amendment to the Pendleton bill which was defeated on Saturday night. He proposed to throw all offices, whether vacant or not, open to competitive examination now, and to apportion them among the States and Territories. Of course, it would be physically impossible to carry out any such scheme without totally disorganizing the administrative machinery of the Government, but many honest Democrats may think that this is the only objection that can be urged against it, even if, as is possible, Mr. Pugh intended it as a jocose absurdity. Competitive examination as a means of admission to the public service is a device of practical men for a practical purpose. It is intended mainly to provide means of obtaining admission to the service which shall be free from favoritism. Its advocates do not say that it is the best mode of recruiting the service; they say it is the best attainable mode. Nor do they say that every man who passes a competitive examination is sure to be fit for the service; they say he is more likely to be a good man to try than a man recommended by a Congressman. Nor do they say that a man who gets higher marks in a competitive examination is sure to be fitter for a place than the man now filling it. What they say is, that there is no proof of a man's fitness for a place so good, or nearly so good, as his having long filled it efficiently. No examination, competitive or pass, can approach this for certainty. Any officer now in the service, therefore, who has for some time discharged his duties faithfully and accurately, has a claim to his place such as no other process devised by man could give him. It would be as silly to give the office to another man who beat him in a competitive examination, as to displace a successful commander for a young man who was better read in strategy or tactics. All this to a practical reformer seems as simple as the alphabet. Mr. Pugh, in his funny way, thinks they do not see it. His joke is that if competitive examination be a good thing, there cannot be too much of it; that everybody would be the better for being competitively examined. Therefore, if you propose that everybody who enters the service hereafter shall pass a competitive examination, it is because you think there is some mysterious virtue in competitive examination which would make any officeholder the better for it, just as if it was a new variety of mineral water, or a new chest-protector.

Senator Mahone has defined his position on the civil-service reform question, and also vindicated himself with regard to the charge that he had levied assessments upon the Federal officeholders in Virginia, and caused the

removal, for political reasons, of a number of department clerks. Senator Mahone wants to have it understood that he is no civil-service reformer of the modern kind. He thinks that "the direct accountability of public officers to the people" and "the honorable condition of political parties" will keep the public service straight. Consequently, he is in favor of leaving things as they are, and he opposes especially the appointment of a Civil-Service Commission which is to inquire into the fitness of candidates for place, and thus "interposes itself as an irresponsible agency between the executive head and their responsibility." Senator Mahone knows exactly what he is about. If anybody is to interpose, he wants to do that himself; and when he recommends his political strikers or favorites for office, he does not want a Civil-Service Commission to be about and to inquire into their fitness. Now, as to his having assessed Federal officeholders in Virginia, he insists upon having it understood that he did not assess all of them, and that he did not get money from all of those he did assess. And as to his having caused the removal of department clerks for political reasons, he had only four of them removed, although he frankly admits that he urged a larger number of removals which, however, he did not get. And now there are people who assert that Mr. Mahone assessed officeholders and had clerks removed! How the world is given to lying! Seriously speaking, if the Republican party desires to be trusted as a reform party, the sooner it gets rid of all connection with Mr. Mahone and his kind the better.

Unmerited censure has been visited upon the distilling fraternity because they have sought to have the period within which they must take their whiskey out of bond and pay the excise duty on it extended. The philosophy of the whiskey tax and of all other indirect taxes is that the manufacturer or importer is merely to advance the duty and is allowed to collect it back from the consumer. In other words, taxes of this sort are taxes on consumption, not on production. The whole theory of the system implies that the tax shall be collected at the time when the article is wanted for consumption and not before, or not much before. The law fixes a period within which whiskey may remain in bonded warehouse without payment of tax. That period has elapsed as to some 100,000,000 gallons, and the owners are now required to take it out of bond and pay the tax on it, regardless of the public demand for it, unless they can obtain relief by legislation. There has been overproduction of the article. This is an error and a misfortune to the producers. They must lose in consequence of it, but that is no reason why their losses should be multiplied by requiring them immediately to advance \$80,000,000 in money to the Government—money which the Government does not want, but which it will surely ruin them to pay unless the public are prepared to pur-

chase this enormous quantity all at once and at a fair price—as of course they are not. There is no reason why the proposed extension of time should not be granted to the distillers. If this were a "grist tax" instead of a whiskey tax, there would be no opposition to the bill. Yet in the purview of fiscal science there is no difference between flour and whiskey—the one is entitled to the same consideration, regarded as a source of revenue, as the other. The question whether the Government ought not to charge for storage as a warehouseman is a separate question, and is to be answered upon quite other considerations.

Mr. Ingersoll continued his opening speech in the Star-route trial on Friday, and made some points which amused the audience a good deal. He complained of Mr. Bliss's lack of veracity, declared that, as for himself, he would rather steal than endeavor to deprive a man of his liberty by misstating a fact, and added that if he were on the jury he would not believe a word that Mr. Bliss might say, not even as to the time of day, at least "without looking at the clock afterward." This certainly must give the jury a vivid idea of Mr. Ingersoll's confidence in Mr. Bliss's unflinching mendacity, and the audience laughed heartily over it; but they became grave again when he explained to the negro members of the jury the nature of the issue in the case. "It is for you, and for you, and for you," said the gallant Colonel, addressing the three colored jurymen directly, "to say whether a man who fought to take the chains off your body, shall have chains put on his by your prejudice and ignorance." And yet people complain that the Star-route trial is hard to follow and technical.

The question raised in the Winslow extradition case as to the right to try a prisoner for a crime other than the one for which he is extradited, has come up again, this time in California, before Judge Hoffman, of the United States District Court. He has decided that extradition treaties being under the Constitution part of the law of the land, the prisoner is entitled to the benefit of any neglect or violation of their provisions, and that if extradited for a treaty crime he cannot be tried for one outside the treaty. The point as to the legal right of the prisoner to avail himself of the objection in our courts is a technical one, but there can be no question as to the necessity of the treaty exceptions being maintained in some way. If a prisoner can be extradited for murder and tried for treason, the right of asylum is gone, and no free government can afford to tolerate this.

The Richmond (Va.) State tries to meet our observations on the effect on foreign capitalists of the failure of the Southern people to enforce their own laws against homicide, by alleging, first, that the capitalist we mentioned who refused a good investment in a Southern city to take one at a lower rate of

interest a short distance away in a Northern State, and gave the "shotgun" as one of his reasons, was an "irresponsible imbecile"; secondly, that capital is not so timid as we make it out to be, for it goes to the mining regions to be invested in mines and railroads, which it protects with armed men. This last is true but does not conflict with our argument. Emigrants with families do not go to the mining regions. Those who go are mostly young single men, who do not mind "dying in their boots." Moreover, capital does not go to the mining regions in loans on farm lands, or loans of any kind. When it goes the owner goes with it, with his shotgun and revolver, and turns it over himself, or else buys mining stock, which is nearly always a gambling venture, hardly ever a real investment properly so called. It would go to the South in the same way if the South had similar prizes to offer. What the South needs is a good market for its lands, and a peaceable population to till them. It does not want and cannot get capitalists surrounded by armed guards. Therefore it should offer secure homes to peaceable men who do not fight, or care for "satisfaction," or "shoot on sight," and to whom money may safely be lent to use on their farms.

The news of the Pennsylvania homicide on Sunday has made some of the apologists of Southern homicide jump for joy, and set them to writing us abusive letters. Up to the present they have been obliged to rely for their counter attacks on the North on the ordinary crimes of the last thirty or forty years—the Webster murder, the daughter-whipping case, the Sickles case; but here is a genuine revolver homicide between two men in respectable positions, and this in a Northern State—that is, the very kind of homicide which we have been calling attention to. It would be exceedingly useful indeed, if we had said that such things never occurred at the North, or if they occurred at the South not more than once in five years, or even once in a year. But unhappily the evil we have been denouncing at the South is too common, and its existence too freely acknowledged, to make it possible to cover it up under a silly *tu quoque*. Moreover, our most serious charge against the South is not that homicide is frequent in that region, but that it is rarely punished.

The detailed account, in the Memphis *Avalanche*, of the killing of Speaker Tyson, of the Mississippi House of Representatives, at Baldwin, the other day, is very interesting. The Speaker, as our readers may remember, brought it on himself by chastising one Sanders for "a domestic trouble," with great severity, he and his brother having suddenly felled Sanders with a blow on the head at a railroad station, and then jumped on his body, he keeping off the Mayor with a cocked revolver until his brother completed the beating. "Threats enough to fill a volume," the *Avalanche* says, were uttered after this—the Speaker probably furnishing at least half of them—but his brother "left on a mule through the country." The Speaker would have been wise had he left on another mule. Sanders was in bed for some time; but on re-

covering his health, stationed himself on a high platform overlooking the sidewalk, with his shotgun, and waited for the Speaker, who came along in due course and received a plunging fire which finished him on the spot. Let no one suppose, however, that the inhabitants of Baldwin view this tragedy with indifference. On the contrary, the *Avalanche* assures us that it has been "a severe shock to the community, although it was known that a serious difficulty, to which he (the Speaker) was a party, was pending." "The feeling is one of universal regret and profound sympathy with his bereaved family." One of the most striking features of the state of mind of Southern communities about these affairs is that, although it is almost always well known when a "serious difficulty is pending"—that is, when two men are going about on the streets threatening to murder each other—"the shock" is just as "severe," and the "gloom" as great, as if it took the community wholly by surprise, and as if "difficulties" were novel phenomena.

The Albany *Morning Express*, the notorious Stalwart organ, actually came out in a recent number in favor of civil-service reform—not from very high motives, it is true, but in order to prevent Democrats, if possible, from getting the offices. But, no matter what the motives, the phenomenon is an extraordinary one, though not more extraordinary, to be sure, than the advice, delivered in somewhat opprobrious language, to the statesmen of the district associations in this city, by leading Stalwarts, to abandon the pledge to support all "regular" nominations, with which they now guard the entrance to their organizations. This, too, is a marvellous sign of the times. The statesmen in question, however, will not heed it; and from their point of view they would be unwise to heed it. As long as they maintain this pledge they are somebody. If they abandon it, they will be nobody, and suicide is no man's duty.

General Hazen, Chief Signal Officer at Washington, has taken the trouble to refute Wiggins, the new Canadian weather prophet and storm seer; Wiggins having predicted a tempest of such awful power and destructive propensities to sweep over land and sea, on the 11th of March next, that it will be unsafe for any vessel, "whatever her dimensions," to be out of harbor on that day. Vennor had already given his opinion that Wiggins is a humbug. De Voe is yet to be heard from. General Hazen's refutation of Wiggins is more minute and circumstantial than Vennor's, and presumably more so than De Voe's forthcoming one. He shows, for instance, that the track of Wiggins's storm is much more zigzag than any storms ever observed and recorded at the Signal Office, and that the influence of the Rocky Mountains imputed by Wiggins to the rush of winds on the 11th of March is essentially different from anything ever noticed by the scientific world. He also alludes to Wiggins's use of the phrase "planetary force" as something which savors of astrology and medieval superstition rather than of the Baconian philosophy. The force of the argument,

it seems to us, is on Hazen's side, but perhaps we ought not to decide prematurely, but wait until we hear from Wiggins again, and also from De Voe.

Judge Arnoux's decision with regard to the effect of the Sunday law on the Jews shows that the code possesses some curious features not hitherto suspected. The code, it seems, makes no exception in favor of the Jews with regard to trade and business, manufactures or mechanical employments. A Jew who keeps his shop or place of business open on Sunday is guilty of Sabbath-breaking exactly as if he were a Christian, and the fact that he observes Saturday makes no difference. The effect of the code is, therefore, practically to make the Jews stop all work on two days of the week, while Christians are compelled to observe only one Sunday. Judge Arnoux declares that the law is explicit, and applies to everybody alike; but, under it, the Jew will be only able to work on five days in the week, unless, indeed, he succeeds, by means which the law never designs the good citizen to use, in inducing the police captain who is placed over him to wink at a violation of the law. If the law is enforced, the Jew seems, therefore, to be placed at a distinct disadvantage in the community, the Christian being given every week one day's start of him. Of course, in the keen struggle for existence which goes on in a great city, the man who can work six days in the week will always do a little better than the man who can only work five, and in the end the six-day man would exterminate and drive away the five-day man; so that the Sunday law looks as if the object of the code was either to convert all the Jews to Christianity, or to drive them out of the State.

* Another clause of the code has been discovered by Judge Arnoux, which looks as if the codifiers had done still more for the Christian religion even than this. Section 264 provides that in one case Jews may do work on Sunday, but that is only when the work is "servile labor." The language of the code is, that "it is a sufficient defence to a prosecution for servile labor on the first day of the week that the defendant uniformly keeps another day of the week as holy time, and does not labor on that day." That the effect of the provision is to enable good Christians to harry the Jews seems clear from Judge Arnoux's decision, that under it a Jew may be arrested, though he cannot be prosecuted. "It must appear, therefore, that the accused uniformly keeps another day holy, and that he does not then labor, and yet this does not protect him from arrest. It can only be shown as a defence to a prosecution." The code as it stands is peculiar, but we were assured when its provisions with regard to Sunday were first discovered, that all that was needed was a little judicial interpretation to make it perfectly intelligible. We cannot say that Judge Arnoux's decision is unintelligible, but it makes the Sunday law more grotesque than ever. To revive an obsolete law against Sabbath-breaking is inconvenient, but to revive it so as to make the Jews keep two Sundays, and enable police captains to arrest

them for performing a particular kind of labor, which may still be pleaded as a defence to a prosecution after an arrest has been made, is a consequence of "interpretation" which the Jews, at any rate, cannot be expected to like. If it is necessary for the interests of the Christian religion that the Jews should be persecuted by the police, the law ought to be passed by the Legislature after a full discussion and with a clear understanding of its effect. In the present state of the law the code is an admirable weapon for a corrupt police captain to extort money with.

The failure of the Coöperative Dress Association in this city, which was announced yesterday, is another illustration of the difficulty of getting the better of the "middlemen" in the work of distribution in this country. In England, coöperative stores for consumers have been a great success, not only among the working, but among the middle classes. In London, the stores started by the members of the civil service are doing such an immense business that at one time there was a movement among the London tradesmen to get the Government to prohibit its employees from carrying them on. In the manufacturing districts of the north, too, although success in coöperative production has been rare, coöperative distribution has been the means not only of giving large bodies of working-class consumers very cheap goods of the best quality, but of distributing considerable dividends among the purchasers. For some reason, however, which we have never seen clearly explained, coöperation does not take the fancy of consumers in the United States. No movement in that direction worth mention has originated among the workingmen. A coöperative store for their benefit was got up here three years ago, existed painfully for a year or two, and then died miserably, exposing the leading projector to much obloquy at the hands of the stockholders and creditors. Its failure was, however, to us certain from the beginning, as it was set on foot by philanthropists and clergymen, because they thought a coöperative store would be good for workingmen, instead of being set on foot by workingmen, with their own money, because they wanted it, and meant to deal at it. As a matter of fact, the workingmen did not support it, and it perished partly from inanition and partly from bad management. The most probable reason of these miscarriages is that workingmen in this country who have the foresight and order of intelligence needed to make undertakings of this sort successful, find they can do better with their savings in enterprises of their own. The chances of becoming a boss which open themselves to a canny American artisan are so numerous that those who are made of the right stuff for corporators prefer to go alone. Then, too, it is not unlikely—though we know of no statistics by which it could be proved—that the working population of this country is more nomadic, or rather less settled, than it is in England. The best of them roam more, in the hope of bettering their condition, and are more apt to try a variety of occupations in new places.

The failure of the Coöperative Dress Association is much more easily explicable. It was not a popular movement, in the first place, and could not therefore rely on small profits from large sales. Its clients were of necessity a somewhat restricted class—the women who want expensive clothes at low rates. This must always be a small and shifting body. Its members are apt not to stay long in the position which makes the coöperative store attractive. They either grow richer, and, throwing economy aside as too troublesome, go to the most expensive dressmaker they can find, or else become poorer, and have all their clothes made at home. Then a store intended to supply swell clothes at low rates through hired management is brought into competition with a branch of private business which probably contains more of whatever dry-goods talent there is in the city than any other. There is probably no business to which so much individual skill, shrewdness, enterprise, and capital, in proportion to sales, is applied as the business of supplying women's dress of the finer and more expensive kind in the United States, and especially in this city. The competition in it is very great, and the profits are probably as low as they can be made. It was very unlikely, therefore, from the beginning that hired managers could be got for any such undertaking who could compete with the partners of the great firms carrying on the same business. Any one capable of making such a business succeed in New York finds no difficulty either in obtaining an enormous salary from private firms, or a partnership which gives him a fortune in a very few years. In fact, we fear it will be a good while before American women will be able to dress well without middlemen. The profits of the middlemen may seem large, but such experiments as the Coöperative Dress Association show that the profits need to be large to secure the peculiar capacity which makes the American "dry-goods man" one of the marvels of modern civilization.

The last scene in the Egyptian drama was enacted on Monday at Cairo, when Arabi and his brother Pashas concerned in the late war were publicly degraded from their military rank, preparatory to their starting for Ceylon, which is to be their place of exile. The exile to that distant region is of itself a terrible penalty, and they doubtless feel that it is simply better than death. The worst of it all for Arabi is that he has not only lost his political but his moral and theological position. His trial on the charge of burning Alexandria was probably abandoned because the proof was defective, and on the charge of rebellion because the evidence would have implicated the Sultan and the Khedive, and because he was willing to plead guilty in order to make sure of saving his neck. But enough was revealed to establish the fact that as a prophet and patriot he was a great humbug; that his mendacity was stupendous, even for an Egyptian, and that in his military and political manoeuvres he was from first to last carefully looking after his own interests. Mr. Wilfrid Blunt has, however, stuck to him to the last, with purse and pen, with that amiable

enthusiasm which has marked his espousal of Arabi's cause from the beginning, and which probably did so much to lead Arabi astray. The settlement of the future government of the country is still delayed by the English difficulty in coming to terms with France about the part to be played by the latter.

It would seem from the news of yesterday that some progress has been made toward solving the old problem how to establish official communications between the British Government and the Pope without endangering the Protestant religion and the liberties of England. It is now nearly a century since England began to have intercourse with the Pope in a sneaking, underhand way, by means of non-official persons, travelling Catholic gentlemen, and the like, but until now it has never ventured to use a regular accredited envoy, so strong has been the feeling among the English middle classes that such a step would be a recognition in some way of the Pope's spiritual claims. The feeling is a tradition of the Elizabethan and Stuart days, when the Pope's agents in England were supposed to be plotting either for the murder or dethronement of the sovereign, or his conversion to Popery, with all its attendant horrors. The creation of a British Legation to the Vatican will probably now be easy, but it will mean not that the Papacy has grown more powerful in England, but that the Pope is regarded by the British public as a harmless old gentleman, whose aid in keeping the Irish in order may be useful.

M. Bontoux, the President of the collapsed Union Générale, who has just been convicted, along with M. Feder, the Secretary of the Company, of a breach of the law on public securities, has been sentenced to the extraordinarily severe penalty of five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$600. When first indicted, he was charged with swindling and embezzlement, but these counts were afterward abandoned by the Public Prosecutor, all the securities deposited with him for safekeeping, or as collaterals, being found intact. All that was left was, therefore, counts for speculating in the securities of his own company and false representations, the former of which, on this side of the water, is hardly considered an offence. The Court ruled that if the speculation were moderate, and in good faith for a rise, it would not be an offence in France either. Bontoux denied, and it appears successfully, that he had speculated in the shares on his personal account, but he admitted having sold out during the decline, and was only able to answer the charge of giving a grossly untrue account of the company's condition by alleging that at the time he honestly believed what he said. The chief bookkeeper, too, gave some very damaging testimony as to his having made up a fictitious balance sheet, showing a profit of about \$7,000,000, when there was really a huge deficit, under instructions from M. Feder, the Secretary. Bontoux will probably not undergo his sentence, as he has, as is not unfrequent in France, been tried in his absence, and will probably feel under no obligation to surrender himself for punishment.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

(WEDNESDAY, December 20, to TUESDAY, December 26, 1882, inclusive.)

DOMESTIC.

THE White House was thrown open to the public on Wednesday for the first time since last August, when it was closed for repairs, and the President received a large number of visitors. He will hold his first public reception of the season on New Year's Day.

A Cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday at which the principal matter discussed is said to have been the case of Sergeant Kelly, of Fort Popham, Me., who is now awaiting trial for murder. The question was whether the United States should yield jurisdiction in the case to the State courts, and thereby establish a precedent with regard to crimes committed on Government reservations. No conclusion was reached.

On Saturday the President approved the act repealing the discriminating duties on goods produced east of the Cape of Good Hope; the act ceding to the First Taxing District of the State of Tennessee a certain lot of land in that district, and the act authorizing the Board of Commissioners of the Soldiers' Home to sell certain property at Harrodsburg, Ky.

The State Department has been officially notified that the Mexican Government, after full consideration of the subject, has decided to appoint commissioners to meet those appointed by the United States for the purpose of negotiating a commercial treaty between the two countries. As one of the commissioners the President of Mexico has selected Señor Romero, formerly Minister to the United States. The first meeting of the Commission will be held early in January.

On Wednesday the Senate passed the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriations Bill, with all but one of the amendments reported by the Committee, and with an amendment, added on motion of Mr. Pendleton, appropriating \$5,000 to enable the President to extend diplomatic relations with the Governments of Eastern Asia. The Pendleton bill was then taken up. Mr. Vest made a speech, in which he said he had agreed that the bill should be reported to the Senate, not because he believed its provisions would remedy the evils existing in our civil service, but rather as a means of emphasizing his convictions of the urgent necessity for reform. Mr. Allison and Mr. Dawes made speeches in support of the bill. On Thursday the House resolution for a recess was called up, which furnished a text for eloquence on the question of the records of the respective parties for the last fifty years. The resolution was finally lost by a vote of seventeen to forty-five. The debate on the Pendleton bill was then continued. On Friday the Allison amendment to the bill, reducing the number of Commissioners, was defeated by a tie vote, twenty-three Senators voting on each side. An incident of the debate on that day was an explanation by Senator Mahone in regard to his use of patronage and his levying of political assessments during the recent campaign. He said there had been only four removals upon his representation, except of persons who were unjustly charged to the quota of Virginia, and who were not in any sense residents of the State. In regard to the charge made by Senators Bayard and Beck, that it had been found necessary to prepare blank forms upon which to inform Virginians in the Government service of their dismissal, he pronounced it lacking in every element of truth. On Saturday the Hale amendment to the Pendleton bill, in regard to the selection and location of the local boards of examiners, was carried. An amendment offered by Senator Brown, striking out the paragraph requiring that "promotion shall be from the lower grades to the higher on the basis of merit and competition," was carried.

The debate was continued until 12 o'clock at night with much warmth. The Senate then adjourned till Wednesday without reaching any vote on the Pendleton bill.

On Wednesday the House passed the Post-office Appropriation Bill by a vote of 163 to 21. Much of Friday was passed in attempting to obtain a quorum, and on Saturday, there being no quorum, the House was adjourned until Wednesday.

The President has issued an Executive order, setting apart certain lands in Dakota Territory for the use and occupation of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewas, and such other Indians of the Chippewa tribe as the Secretary of the Interior may see fit to settle thereon.

Advices received at the Interior Department on Wednesday, dated December 4, and coming through the military channels, report that the Milk River country, in northern Montana, is overrun with half-breeds, Crees, and Lame-Brulé bands of hostile Sioux Indians; also that the Yankton Indians and possibly others are obtaining arms, ammunition, and whiskey in unlimited quantities, and that a collision between the troops and these Indians is apprehended. It is stated at the Department that most of these intruders are Canadian Indians, and that steps were taken some time ago, when the Department was first advised of their presence, to prevent them from obtaining arms, ammunition, etc., from the trading posts in that section.

A circular letter has been sent by Indian Commissioner Price to all Indian agents, containing rules for the establishment and guidance at each Indian agency of a "Court of Indian Offences," which is to be composed of three persons, to be nominated by the agent after consultation with the Indians in council, from among the most intelligent of the tribe, and well known and recognized for their good moral character. The court is to have jurisdiction over such questions as may be presented to it by the agent, or by his approval, and over all "Indian offences" which are designated in the circular. All decisions and orders of these courts are to be subject to an appeal and final revision by the Indian Office.

A letter from the Collector of Customs at Sitka, Alaska, submitted to the House on Thursday, in reply to a resolution of Mr. Hewitt concerning the shelling of the Alaska Indians by the revenue cutter *Corwin*, justifies the action of the officers of the cutter.

Forty Chinese women recently arrived at Victoria, B. C., thirty-two of whom had been sold to Chinamen who reside in the United States. Two Chinamen who wanted to secure certain of the women brought them before the courts on a writ of habeas corpus, alleging that they were forcibly detained. The women, however, swore that they were free agents, and the cases were dismissed. In the course of the investigation it was proved that the thirty-two women who went to the United States were disguised as Indian women. It is feared that this traffic will be carried on on a large scale from Victoria during the ensuing year.

A despatch from Lieutenant Harber, dated at Yakutsk, was received by Secretary Chandler on Wednesday. Lieutenant Harber says he has made a thorough search of the coast of the Lena without finding any trace of Lieutenant Chipp's party. He will return to the delta. On Thursday Secretary Chandler received a despatch from Minister Hunt, at St. Petersburg, saying that the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs considered the removal of the bodies of De Long and his men impracticable at present, endangering the dogs and reindeer required, which cannot be replaced if lost.

Mr. John Eaton, United States Commissioner of Education, delivered an address at

the Union League Club, New York, on Thursday evening, on "Illiteracy as shown by the Census of 1880." He said that, according to the last census, there were in the United States over 3,200,000 colored persons, over 2,200,000 native whites, and over 7,000,000 foreign-born whites over ten years of age who could not write. Although this represents relatively a gain of 10 per cent. over 1870 in the number who can write, it is an absolute increase of 581,000 in the number who cannot write. Mr. Eaton gave a mass of figures, from which he drew the conclusion that if the illiterates were all taught to read and write, the value of their labor would be so increased that an increment of wealth amounting to \$488,757,000 a year would be added to the whole country. He said that all the present agencies for grappling with the problem of illiteracy were overtaxed, and that only the general Government could meet the greatness of the present emergency by aiding the States in helping and extending established agencies.

An important conviction of a mail robber has been secured in West Virginia. His name is Price, and he was a member of the Redmen's Society, an organization like the Ku-klux, which has created a reign of terror in Barbour County, in that State. The citizens were afraid to testify for fear of the Redmen's revenge. One of Price's companions, however, after Price's conviction, made a confession, giving the secrets of the Redmen. The result is that several persons have been arrested for perjury.

The issue of standard silver dollars from the mints for the week ending December 23 was \$776,900, as against \$421,490 for the corresponding period of last year.

It is announced that there will soon be established in Washington an institution to be known as the "National Club of American Economists." Its purpose will be to fight the freetraders and revenue-reformers. The President will be First Comptroller Lawrence of the Treasury.

The industrial census of Philadelphia shows a large increase as compared with the census of 1880. There has been an increase of 2,000 establishments and of 50,000 persons employed.

Citizens of Louisville, Ky., have subscribed over \$200,000 to the Cotton Exhibition to be held there next year.

Captain A. C. Nutt, Cashier of the Pennsylvania State Treasury, was shot and killed on Sunday morning, at Uniontown, Penn., by N. L. Dukes, a member of the Fayette County bar, and member-elect of the State Legislature. Nothing was developed in the evidence before the coroner's jury to show what led to the encounter, but it was unquestionably a domestic scandal. The affair caused much excitement in Pennsylvania.

The Grand Jury at Louisville, Kentucky, has found nine indictments against the Auditor, Back-Tax Collector, and Clerk of the Assessor's office of the city, charging them with conspiracy to defraud the city and other misdemeanors. The Mayor has declared the offices vacant, and the Council will impeach the delinquents.

It is stated that the Trustees of Trinity College, Hartford, have invited Dr. Potter, President of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., to become the President of Trinity College, in place of Dr. Pynchon, who has resigned, but who will remain at the College, retaining the Professorship of Moral Philosophy.

FOREIGN.

In the French Senate on Wednesday M. Léon Say concluded his speech on the budget. He dwelt upon the necessity of keeping down

the floating debt, and contended that the best means of continuing the railway enterprises advocated by the Department of Public Works was to treat with the railway companies. At the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, President Grévy assented to the proposal of Admiral Jauréguiberry in regard to the proposed expedition to Tonquin, and the Cabinet decided to despatch the expedition, and will demand a credit of 11,000,000 francs therefor. On Friday, during the discussion of the budget in the Senate, M. Buffet appealed to the Senators in the name of patriotism to rescue the finances of the Government from embarrassment. He said they should bear in mind that the country might one day be called upon to make a supreme effort either for the preservation of order at home or safety abroad. M. Tirard, Minister of Finance, protested against the alarmist campaign which was being prosecuted against the finances of the country.

The Committee for the Promotion of a Treaty of Commerce between France and the United States held a meeting in Paris on Saturday, at which a communication was read stating that, according to the latest news, the American Government and Congress were disposed to effect considerable reductions in the customs tariff. The Committee, in consequence of this information, decided to make representations to the French Government, urging it to watch carefully the interests of French commerce during the discussion in Washington on the tariff question.

M. Bontoux, President, and M. Feder, Manager, of the collapsed Union Générale, were on Wednesday sentenced to five years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 3,000 francs.

On Friday nine of the rioters of Montceaux-Mines were sentenced to imprisonment for terms varying from one to five years, with recommendations to mercy. Fourteen others were acquitted.

It is stated that the examination of the papers found in the residence of Prince Krapotkine, who was recently arrested, reveals ugly facts. The papers are said to implicate, among others, a relative of the Czar. The Prince was examined for three hours by a Judge of Instruction on Monday. He answered "No" to every question put to him. He is kept in solitary confinement, not even the police in charge being allowed to speak to him. He and forty-five other Anarchists will be tried at Lyons early in January before the Correctional Tribunal.

M. de Lesseps, presiding at a banquet in Paris given by the Contractors on Public Works, on Sunday, announced that the scheme for the creation of an inland sea in Africa will be resumed by private enterprise.

The hanging of Overdank, at Trieste, caused great excitement in Italy. In the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday, notice was given of an interpellation inquiring whether the Government had interposed with Austria with a view to obtaining Overdank's pardon. On Friday, Signor Depretis stated in the Chamber that the Government declined to reply to the interpellation, as the statements made in connection with it had served as a pretext for disorders which the Government was determined to suppress. On the same day a number of young men made a demonstration in front of the Austrian Embassy in Rome, crying "Down with Austria!" The military was called out to disperse the crowd. Demonstrations were also made at Milan and Turin in protest against the hanging of Overdank. The Italian Government sent severe orders to the prefects to suppress demonstrations. On Sunday the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs called upon the Austrian Ambassador at Rome to express his regret at the display of feeling against Austria made by the Italians engaged in the disorders. On Sunday and Monday it was necessary to surround the Austrian em-

bassy at Turin with troops to protect it from the mob.

On Friday the Italian Chamber of Deputies adopted the Parliamentary Oath Bill introduced by the Government, by a vote of 222 to 45. During the debate on the bill on Wednesday Signor Depretis made an eloquent speech in defence of the bill. He said the oath was simply a mutual agreement between the King and the representatives of the nation. The House of Savoy, he said, had always faithfully kept its promises, and he was convinced it would keep them. On Thursday, a motion expressing confidence in the Government was carried by a vote of 324 to 32.

In his reply to the new-year congratulations of the Cardinals on Sunday, the Pope, in alluding to the Martinucci case recently decided by the Italian Court of Appeals, said: "A fresh attack upon the sovereignty of the Papacy has recently been made. The consideration which was formerly shown for the Holy See, and which was dictated by political prudence and reasons of state, has now been put aside." He added that, despite everything, he would continue to defend the rights and interests of the Church.

A despatch from Sofia, Bulgaria, says that the Chamber of Deputies held its first sitting on Sunday. The state of siege proclaimed in some of the Turkish districts, in consequence of the prevalence of brigandage, has been raised.

King Milan of Servia, replying to an address presented to him by the Skupshtina, said on Tuesday that since 1815 Servia had passed through a gigantic struggle for progress and freedom, and was now assuming an honorable place among the educated races of Europe. The King's speech is reported to have created a favorable impression.

In the Greek Chamber of Deputies on Monday the Opposition protested against a proposal to proceed with the discussion of the budget on the ground of informality, and retired in a body. M. Tricoupis then said that if the Opposition persisted in retiring, the Government would ask the Chamber to proceed to vote the budget without further debate.

In the Spanish Chamber of Deputies on Sunday the Ministerial motion declaring against any change in the Constitution of 1876 was adopted by a vote of 221 to 18. The Cortes then adjourned to January 8. Only the Republican members voted against the motion, and the Conservative members of the dynastic Left abstained from voting, being unwilling to show their small numerical strength. The opinion prevails that although the new party obtained greater success in the political debates in the Chamber of Deputies than in the Senate, the Government has not been materially weakened, and therefore no Cabinet changes are expected for the present. On Friday Señor Castelar made a speech in the Chamber which excited much comment. He maintained the superiority of the democratic system of government, and the incompatibility of monarchy with liberty. He declared that he would never alter his views, and would remain a Republican to the day of his death. He said he believed in the ultimate triumph of his cause.

The Khedive's decree degrading Arabi and the other rebel Pashas was published Monday morning. Their public degradation was carried out in the afternoon in the presence of two battalions of the new Egyptian Army. Only a few Europeans and about 100 natives were present. The prisoners have started for Ceylon.

Mr. Chamberlain, President of the Board of Trade, speaking at a meeting of the National Federation at Ashton-under-Lyne, on Tuesday, the 19th instant, energetically condemned the doctrines of "non-intervention and peace

at any price" as ignoble and unworthy of a great nation. England, he said, had great legitimate interests in Egypt which should be guarded by the establishment of stable institutions leading toward self-government, but a protectorate or annexation would be disastrous.

On Monday the London *Daily News* announced that Sir Charles Dilke will enter the Cabinet as President of the Local Government Board, while the Right Hon. George Dodson, the present incumbent of the office, will become Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Government has ordered the prosecution of Mr. Harrington, Secretary of the Organizing Committee of the Irish National League, for a speech recently delivered by him, and prosecutions are understood to be pending against the proprietors of various provincial journals for articles published by them inciting to crime.

The Government has determined to prosecute Mr. O'Brien, editor of the *United Ireland*, for seditious libel uttered in an article which appeared in that paper, and which, in referring to the recent executions of Irish murderers, attempted to show that they had been hanged on the principle that somebody must be hanged—the right person if possible, but, at all events, somebody.

A large meeting was held in London on Sunday night, for the purpose of organizing a fund to relieve the distress in Ireland. Many letters and telegrams from clergymen in Ireland were read, describing the outlook as appalling and stating that the people are on the verge of famine. A resolution was passed urging the Government to prevent the people in Ireland from perishing for want of the necessities of life.

The Secretary of Mr. Tuke's Emigration Fund has issued an appeal for aid to enable distressed people in Ireland to emigrate to Canada and the United States. The local Government Board has applied to Mr. Tuke's Committee for coöperation in furthering the Government's emigration scheme. The districts already intrusted to the Committee contain an aggregate population of more than 30,000. In a speech on Thursday evening Mr. Davitt said that emigration was no cure for the discontent in Ireland. A system of public-works enterprises, he said, would be far more creditable to English statesmen than forcing thousands into workhouses and then forcing them to quit the country. From his knowledge of the new Ireland in America, he said he could tell Lord Derby that English statesmen before long would have to take into account the Irish element in America in the settlement of the Irish question.

All the witnesses summoned in connection with the Phoenix Park murders were brought to Kilmainham Jail, to see if they could identify Westgate, who had accused himself of being one of the assassins. They failed to identify him as one of the murderers, and it has been since found out that Westgate occasionally labors under hallucinations, which probably accounts for his self-inculpation.

The Rev. Dr. Benson has been appointed to and has accepted the Archbishopric of Canterbury.

The peace negotiations between Bolivia and Chili have again been broken off. Bolivia requested the presence of two Peruvian commissioners at a conference to take place at Santiago or Valparaiso, but Chili would not consent. In reply to a speech by General Maney, the new United States Minister to Bolivia, on presenting his credentials, General Salinas, President of Bolivia, said that Bolivia and Peru now understood fully that there was no chance of the United States interfering in their behalf against Chili, and that Bolivia now understood that its future depended on itself.

CHRISTMAS.

THE Anglo-Saxon Christmas was, forty years ago, in a somewhat declining condition—that is, considerable weariness of it, or indifference to it, was beginning to show itself—when Dickens restored it by associating it with the spirit of kindness and good-will to all friends and neighbors which he preached so successfully in his earlier novels. He made it fashionable, as it were, to be unusually affectionate and generous not only to one's own family, but to every one with whom one came in contact about that time of the year. He filled the imagination of the Anglo-Saxon world with pictures of the happiness which could be brought to poor homes by Christmas cheer, in the shape of turkeys and roast beef, and venison and other game, and—which was perhaps more effective—with pictures of the virtues, both social and domestic, which were to be found among the humble and lowly by rich people who went in search of them. The result was a prodigious Christmas renaissance. The illustrated Christmas book began to appear, and the "Christmas number" of the illustrated paper, with Christmas tales and pictures of delightful Christmases in country houses, with girls being kissed under the mistletoe, elderly men dancing country-dances with almost unseemly vivacity, "waits" singing in front of brilliantly-lighted windows, wagons hauling home "yule logs," and young ladies helping the curate to dress the church in Christmas green. The most marked feature of this Dickens revival was the conversion of the elderly people to a liking for Christmas, for it must be admitted that the elderly are the worst enemies of Christmas as the feast of good cheer and good-fellowship. As a general rule, the leading anniversaries of the world have to be kept alive by the young. In most people past middle life they touch sore spots in the memory, and mark with somewhat startling emphasis the flight of time; so that there is apt to be more or less indifference to them, or even positive aversion, on the part of that portion of society which pays the expenses of formal merry-making and remembering. To Dickens belongs the credit of having convinced this class, for a brief period at all events, that Christmas was unlike other fêtes in having a distinct rôle for the elderly—namely, that of being young again. He makes his middle-aged men dance furiously, and laugh immoderately, and eat late suppers, and drink punch, and kiss pretty girls, and gives them a claim to be heard patiently at this one season when giving accounts of their doings, "at your age," as they say to the youths and maidens. He greatly magnified the office, too, of a benefactor of poor relations and dependents, and, in fact, thoroughly popularized Christmas with all classes and ages.

The English Christmas is, however, of late years, not holding its own, in its old form. Dickens's influence has spent its force, and the old agencies which were working for Christmas abasement before his time have begun to reassert themselves. The spread of education, the love of reading, the increasing seriousness and independence of the working classes, the great scattering of families which

steam-travelling has brought about, make the old "merry Christmas" no longer possible. The association of happiness, too, with repletion of the stomach, which did so much for Christmas in the olden time, is rapidly disappearing—has, in fact, disappeared among all but the very poor. The huge joint, like "the baron of beef," or the boar's head, or the haunch of venison, which once was the glory of the Christmas dinner, no longer holds its old position. Its attractiveness has been ruined by the growth of French cookery—especially that feature of French cookery, called "little dishes," which torments the imaginations of so many housekeepers—and by an undoubted decline in eating capacity on the part of the modern world. Gluttony, which used to be one of the seven deadly sins, is now an all but unknown vice. Cases of very excessive eating are almost unheard of; and among the well-to-do people of our time the sight of huge joints, or the sound of a table "groaning" under cheer of any kind, instead of stimulating, destroys the appetite. The weakening of the ties of blood also, which has undoubtedly taken place, under the influence of the immense scattering which has been produced by modern improvements in locomotion, has damaged the old-fashioned Christmas. In the days when relatives dwelt rather near together, and kept the sense of relationship alive by frequent intercourse, and when families had heads who were deferred to, the Christmas gathering of the tribe under its largest roof was both pleasant and significant. It strengthened a well-recognized and often very useful bond, and renewed cherished associations. In our time, however, when the cynical press denounces "family gatherings" as an awful infliction, and asks to have a prayer for deliverance from one's relations inserted in the litany, it cannot be denied that its utterances find an echo, about Christmas time, in many not by any means hard or cold hearts. The relation is, in fact, not what he used to be, and the Christmas tradition can do nothing for him. Few people now care much about him as such. He is put in the same category with the rest of the human race, whom we like or dislike not for their fathers or mothers, but for themselves. In fact, many of us feel about him as the gentleman felt who was asked "whether he liked children." "What a question," said he; "you might as well ask me whether I like grown-up people." The relation, in fact, begins to feel more and more that those who do not care to see him on other days will not be beguiled into setting Christmas apart as a day for pretending to enjoy his society.

The general tendency of the Anglo-Saxon Christmas is, therefore, in the German or French direction. The French do not make as much of Christmas as a family fête as of New Year's Day, but their practice, as well as that of the Germans, has always been to celebrate their family fêtes by gifts rather than by eating together. In this country as well as in England, in fact, the present-making German Christmas is rapidly displacing the old Anglo-Saxon eating Christmas, in which present-making (except in the shape of gifts to

the poor and tips to servants) had but a small space. In fact, the American Christmas may now be said to be a day of the year when everybody makes a present to everybody of his friends under a certain age whom he thinks it will gratify—children getting most presents, and the old persons but few. Among people of small means, utility is apt to govern the selection of the articles; among the richer, beauty has more to do with it. But the number of things which may be converted into Christmas presents every year increases. There is no store nowadays which does not contain "holiday goods," and the result is to popularize Christmas in a way which probably even Dickens never dreamed of. A present-giving Christmas, with stockings and trees for the children, and packages by express and Christmas cards by mail for the not old, diffuses Christmas feelings over the land in a way which the old eating Christmas never did. This was at best but a day of remembrance for but few. The most generous observer of the day could have but a small number at his board, while the giver of gifts can reach the uttermost ends of the earth with tokens of either affection or good wishes, whichever he feels or cares to show.

The new régime has of course, like all things of the kind, its weak side, in that it tends, like all human expressions of feeling, to become mechanical through long use, and, like all things effected through expenditure of money, to exalt the man with the longest purse, and to impose obligations on those whom obligations make uncomfortable. This is, however, only another way of saying that no human institution is without its drawbacks or imperfections, and that all modes of human expression are liable to abuse. The fact remains that, however celebrated, the devotion of one day in the year to the remembrance of other people; to small attempts to make their lives a little brighter, their future seem a little more hopeful, their journey through the world a little less lonely; to a little closing up of the ranks of those who still survive the ravages that Time every year makes in the column in which each generation marches across the field, is one of the best things the Christian Church has done for the modern world.

ORTHODOX PROTECTIONISTS.

A new protectionist association, calling itself the "National Club of American Economists," has been formed at Washington city. This association is apparently based upon the idea that genuine "protection" means the highest rate of duty that anybody wants to have imposed upon anything, and that any other kind of protection is bogus. Its prospectus, as formulated by its President, tells us that "a majority of freetraders have unexpectedly entered Congress"—meaning, we suppose, the next Congress, although nobody can tell at this time what the views of the next Congress may prove to be. We have not the least expectation that the freetraders will have a majority of the next Congress, but we presume that a majority of that body will be at least as far advanced in their ideas

as the "report" of the Tariff Commission appears to be, and will be opposed to duties of 100 per cent. *ad valorem*. It is a fact worthy of note that there are protectionists of considerable reputation who think that the Tariff Commission has betrayed the cause. Mr. Henry Carey Baird is one of this class, if we may credit an interview with him recently published in a Philadelphia newspaper. According to Mr. Baird, the Commissioners, although selected to represent the interests of protection, have yielded supinely to the demands of their opponents, and have put their names to a document containing the worst heresies of free trade. We have no doubt that the National Club of American Economists are substantially in accord with Mr. Baird, and are prepared to take a decided stand against anybody who favors any lower rate of duty than the highest which anybody else wants.

In mentioning the "report" of the Tariff Commission we by no means intend to include the bill which accompanies it. The report is a very good argument for the use of revenue reformers, while the bill is, upon the whole, rather worse than the existing tariff. The following extracts from the report might have been written, with some slight change of phraseology, by David A. Wells, Edward Atkinson, or W. M. Grosvenor. Indeed, Colonel Grosvenor claims that the substance of it was set forth by himself in his work, "Does Protection Protect?" published in the year 1871. The report says:

"Early in its deliberations the Commission became convinced that a substantial reduction of tariff duties is demanded, not by a mere indiscriminate popular clamor, but by the best conservative opinion of the country, including that which has in former times been most strenuous for the preservation of our national industrial defences. Such a reduction of the existing tariff the Commission regards not only as a due recognition of public sentiment and a measure of justice to consumers, but one conducive to the general industrial prosperity, and which, though it may be temporarily inconvenient, will be ultimately beneficial to the special interest affected by such reduction. No rates of defensive duties, except for the establishment of new industries, which more than equalize the conditions of labor and capital with those of foreign competitors, can be justified. Excessive duties, or those above such standard of equalization, are positively injurious to the interest which they are supposed to benefit. They encourage the investment of capital in manufacturing enterprise by rash and unskilled speculators, to be followed by disasters to the adventurers and their employees, and a plethora of commodities which deranges the operations of skilled and prudent enterprise. It would seem that the rates of duties under the existing tariff—fixed for the most part, during the war, under the evident necessity at that time of stimulating to the utmost all domestic production—might be adapted, through reduction, to the present condition of peace requiring no such extraordinary stimulus. And in the mechanical and manufacturing industries, especially those which have been long established, it would seem that the improvements in machinery and processes made within the last twenty years, and the high scale of productiveness which has become a characteristic of their establishments, would permit our manufacturers to compete with their foreign rivals under a substantial reduction of existing duties."

These words will be pasted in the hats of many stump speakers in the interest of revenue reform a year and a half hence, and the Washington Club of Economists will be kept busy answering them.

The bill reported by the Commission is, however, a delusion and a snare. The

average reduction of duties, they tell us, is not less than 20 per cent., and they believe that it will reach 25 per cent. This reduction is reached, if reached at all, by lowering duties which are now prohibitory, but still leaving them prohibitory. Take the precious example of steel rails. The existing duty is \$28 per ton. The lowest price in England is \$25 per ton, and the price in this country at present is \$40. The Commission make a great merit of reducing the duty to \$18, which is quite as prohibitory as the present duty, since no rails can be imported under it. The whole bill is made up of subterfuges of this kind, interspersed with additions here and there to the existing scale of duties, as for instance in the cases of earthenware, glass, and tin plates.

Tin plates are the raw material of one of the most extensive branches of our manufacturing industry. There is hardly a village that has not its tinsmith, while the great cities turn out millions of dollars' worth of utensils and tin cans, which become the raw materials and necessary adjuncts of other branches of manufacture even more extensive. Tin plates ought to be put on the free list, as a measure of true protection to American industry. The duty is 1 1-10 cents per pound, and the amount imported is between 200,000,000 and 300,000,000 pounds per annum. The Commission recommend that the duty be increased to 1 9-10 cents a pound—at the instance, it is said, of a Pittsburgh firm who have taken it into their heads to import block tin and make the plates in this country, and who wish to have all the tinshops and canning establishments of the United States, as well as all the consumers of their products, handed over to them as subjects of taxation. What a formidable *octopus* this Pittsburgh tin-plate company would be if it could have its way! Even tin can be produced in this country under a sufficiently high rate of duty. After the Pittsburgh firm get well started the right thing will be to put a duty of 10 cents a pound on block tin to encourage the miners.

It is this sort of protection that the Washington Club of Economists is apparently organized to promote. It was this sort of protection that ruined a flourishing American industry (that of copper smelting) a few years ago, and transferred to English houses the trade in metal sheathing for American ship-bottoms—at the instance of the rich owners of copper mines on Lake Superior. The sublimated and refined variety of protection which now obtains in the orthodox schools holds that foreign trade is essentially infamous, and that any domestic industry (manufacturing or other) which depends upon it ought to be delivered over to some domestic devil-fish to have its blood sucked—as soon as possible.

THE MEANING OF THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT.

THE argument now going on in the Supreme Court, in the Southern Pacific Railroad Company's tax case, over the construction of the Fourteenth Amendment, presents some important points of constitutional law. The suit is brought to recover from the company

State and county taxes levied on its property in California. One of the defences of the company is that in the assessment of its property an unlawful discrimination was made between it and the property of individuals, the company not being allowed any deduction from the valuation on account of a mortgage upon it, although such deductions are allowed in the case of individuals; that the defendant had no notice or opportunity to be heard respecting the value of its property, or to correct any errors of the State Board of Equalization. The company contends, too, that the tax thus laid conflicts with the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment—"nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Passing over the questions of fact and technical points involved, the case brings up the true construction of the Fourteenth Amendment in its relation to the taxing powers of the States.

Ten years ago, in the New Orleans slaughter-house cases, there was a very full argument in the Supreme Court with regard to the general effect of the provisions of this amendment; but the opinions of the judges throw little light upon the disposition likely to be made of the present case. The facts then before the court were that the Legislature of Louisiana had incorporated a company with the exclusive right to carry on the business of slaughtering cattle within a large district embracing the city of New Orleans. The butchers protested against this act as interfering with their trade and in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. Five judges upheld the act as being an exercise of the police power of the State for the benefit of the public health, and held that the Fourteenth Amendment had no bearing upon the matter.

On the other hand, four judges thought the act created a monopoly, and conflicted with the amendment. The argument chiefly turned, it is true, on the provision in the amendment that "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States"; but the other clauses were discussed, and the view of the minority appears to have been that the amendment was designed as a Federal *magna charta*, authorizing the interposition of the United States to protect its citizens against any injustice or oppression on the part of the States; while the majority thought that the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments ought to be construed together, as part of a general scheme designed to free the negroes and to guarantee them civil and political rights. It must be said, however, that the views of the majority as to the effect of the amendment, consisting of Judges Clifford, Miller, Davis, Strong, and Hunt, were by no means as clearly expressed as those of the minority, consisting of Chief-Justice Chase, Judges Swayne, Field, and Bradley. This was but natural, for the majority did not consider the act of the Louisiana Legislature objectionable in itself as creating a monopoly, and therefore were hardly called upon to discuss the amendment at all.

But, besides this, the complete reorganiza-

tion of the court within the last ten years, through the appointment of new judges, is of itself enough to preclude us from drawing any inferences from the slaughter-house cases. Only three members of the court as it then existed—Judges Field, Bradley, and Miller—are now on the bench. The Chief Justice, and Judges Blatchford, Gray, Harlan, Woods, and Matthews—two-thirds of the court—are recent appointments, and are all Republicans, and none of them are likely to prove very strict constructionists. At the same time, the consequences of a liberal construction of the amendment will necessarily be so far-reaching and comprehensive that there is still likely under any circumstances to be a great diversity of opinion among the judges.

We must confess that we see no escape from the dilemma that, if the amendment has anything to do with the taxing powers of the States, in the sense of preventing injustice and discrimination, it must necessitate the supervision by the Supreme Court of the revenue system of the States to a degree hitherto undreamed of. It is hard to believe that the provision with regard to "due process of law" can be construed to give authority for this purpose, for it is a phrase the meaning of which in constitutional law is well settled. It signifies the established principles of the administration of justice as commonly laid down by the courts—the due course and forms of legal proceedings. The power of taxation is a sovereign and arbitrary power, exercised at the discretion of the State. "Due process of law," so far as taking property under the taxing power is concerned, means one thing in one State, and another in another. If the phrase "equal protection of the laws" means any more, it must mean everything more—in other words, that the test of what is a fair and just system of State taxation is the opinion of the Federal judiciary. We do not say that this may not be the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment. But if it is, certainly the sooner we know it the better.

A REVIEW OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

LONDON, December 7, 1882.

THE special autumnal sittings of the House of Commons have just come to an end, after having lasted a little more than five weeks. Except for a part of four or five evenings, when other subjects were forced on by the extreme method of moving the adjournment of the House, this period has been exclusively devoted to the consideration of the new Rules of Procedure, brought forward by the Government for the purpose of checking obstruction. This may appear an extravagant length of time to give to a matter which lies in so small a compass, and at any former epoch it would doubtless have been so regarded. Twenty, or even ten, or seven, years ago new methods of procedure would have been debated temperately and without party feeling, and a decision on them, whether wise or not, would have been promptly given. Now, however, the spirit of party runs so high, and the two Oppositions, Tory and Irish, are so much disposed to discover a sinister purpose threatening their own several interests in every proposal of the Government, that people are rather thankful that the subject has been got rid of at all than mortified that it should have consumed so much precious time. Nor is it time only that has been con-

sumed, but strength also. The constitutions of our public men are worked so nearly up to breaking point that a slight additional strain tells severely. The Speaker and the Chairman of Committees have both been unwell. Sir Stafford Northcote and Mr. Childers (Secretary of War) have fairly broken down and been sent off for rest and change of scene. Mr. Gladstone himself felt during the last few days the effect of his constant efforts—for the labor of carrying the procedure resolutions has devolved almost entirely upon him—and has on several evenings either not appeared, or retired earlier than his wont.

Readers on your side of the Atlantic would not be interested by an analysis of the new Code of Procedure which these sittings have produced. Most of the details are unintelligible, even to Englishmen, since they relate to small arbitrary rules governing the conduct of parliamentary business. There are, however, several points of more consequence, on each of which some remarks may be desired by those who understand how important even rules of procedure may be when they regulate an assembly which governs an empire.

The first matter of controversy, and the one which roused most feeling, was the proposal to introduce a means of closing debates and coming to a division. Hitherto no such power has existed. Members might talk on as long as their voices could last, and thus delay a division for weeks, the only restriction being that no member could, except in committee, speak more than once to the same question. The new rule, as carried, differs somewhat from the original proposition of the Government. It provides that the Speaker, when he thinks the House generally desires a division, and when he is himself satisfied that the subject has been adequately discussed, may so inform the House. Thereupon any one may move that the main question be forthwith put; and if a motion to that effect is carried, in a House of a certain size, by a majority of specified numbers, the main question shall be so put. This system leaves the initiative to the Speaker; and the Ministry insisted on his intervention as an important safeguard against any abuse of the power. Others, however, thought that it was an injury to the impartiality of his office to bring him in at all, and maintained that if he did use the power he would incur resentment from those he was the means of silencing; while if he did not use it, things would remain as bad as they have latterly been, and the resolution would have been passed in vain. However, the Government carried their point, as they have been able to carry every point they insist on. Strenuous efforts were made to induce them to accept the vote of a majority of two-thirds, instead of a bare majority; but they stood firm, and were deserted on a division by a comparatively small number of their usual supporters.

When the first resolution, creating the closing power, had been carried, it was supposed that the irritation it had produced among the Conservatives would lead to systematic obstruction, directed by them against the remaining rules. Some attempts of the kind were made by that little group of Tory skirmishers which claims the name of the Fourth Party, and makes up by its activity and the strength of its language for its numerical weakness. However, the attendance of members soon began to slacken, and where there are few to listen, and still fewer to applaud, it is hard to be vivacious, or even pertinacious. Thus, although there was a great deal of minute opposition, it was never really formidable, and at last, almost suddenly, collapsed, everybody having grown too tired of the whole affair to wish to keep up the

fight. After the first resolution, the proposal on which the Government laid most stress was the appointment of large standing committees, which were, in the case of measures exciting no party feeling, to be substituted for committees of the whole House, and thereby save its time and enable more business to be despatched. They proposed to try the experiment first with two committees only: the one to undertake legal, and the other commercial bills, and urged that by setting these committees to work at hours when the House was not sitting, several topics of great consequence might be despatched which the House has been unable, for some sessions past, to find time for. There has already, of course, been a practice of referring bills of a technical nature to select committees, consisting usually of from fifteen to twenty-three members, but which might consist of any number; but after such a committee has gone through a bill and reported it to the House, it still has to pass through the Committee of the Whole House, the stage in the progress of a bill which consumes most time. Hence the novelty of the present proposal lay not in the appointment of large committees, but in the dispensing, in the case of bills dealt with by them, with the subsequent Committee of the Whole. There were some obvious objections to this plan, and the Government did not venture to go further than recommend it as an experiment which might fairly be tried, and ought to be tried for one session at least. But the Opposition conceived that by packing these committees the Government might smuggle through measures which they disliked, and were not appeared until Mr. Gladstone, somewhat late in the day, announced that the plan was intended for three bills, all of them long, troublesome, technical, all of them delayed for several years, and anxiously awaited—a reform of the patent law, a new law of bankruptcy, and a consolidation into one statute of the criminal law. These are subjects on which, though there is a great deal of controversy, there are no Liberal or Tory preclivities to warp men's minds; and there will, therefore, be no likelihood of any party quarrels over the composition of the committees. Such committees exist in many other countries, and in some—in France, for instance—the bulk of legislative work is done by them. But there will in England be a greater difficulty in managing them, for many of our most useful members are occupied in their own avocations during the day, and could not give up the hours between 11 A. M. and 4 P. M. to sitting at Westminster, when they might be arguing cases, if they are lawyers, or conducting their business, if merchants. Something, however, must be done to help Parliament to clear off the vast arrears of legislation which have been accumulating since 1876, the year when the bitter party conflicts—first about Eastern affairs, then about Ireland—began to absorb the time of the House of Commons; and Mr. Gladstone has found so much difficulty in inducing the House of Commons to shorten its own discussions, that he is naturally anxious to supplement it by such organs as these committees.

A third point, which was lengthily debated, was the punishment to be meted out to members guilty of obstruction. Hitherto the first offence has been punished by the suspension of one night only. This worked badly, because it often cost the House some time to get the member suspended, and then he, coolly walking out, went home to bed, and came back next day as if nothing had happened. In future the suspended member is to be excluded for a week, with longer periods for the second and third offences. The process is for the Speaker to name the member

to the House, which thereupon votes whether he shall be suspended; and upon this another question arose: whether, when several members have together committed the offence to be punished, they can be jointly named and their suspension voted *en bloc*, or whether the suspension of each one must be voted separately. The former was done in 1881, when the great ejection of Irish members took place, and again last summer, when Dr. Playfair named fifteen as guilty of obstruction. It was felt that this was an undesirable plan, because it may well lead to the punishment of the innocent with the guilty, or else to the escape of the guilty because some innocent man has been among them. Hence it is now to be permitted only in one or two extreme cases, and, as a rule, every member's case will be reported and decided separately.

Lastly must be mentioned the discussion of a curious regulation called the Half-Past Twelve o'Clock Rule, which provides that when any member has given notice of his intention to oppose any motion, or any stage of a bill, that motion or bill cannot be brought on after 12:30 night. This was intended to enable members to go home with an easy mind half an hour after midnight, knowing that no opposed business would then be taken. But its operation has been to delay all business seriously. The bills of private members seldom come on before 12:30, because on Mondays and Thursdays the Government has the whole evening, while on Tuesdays and Fridays motions take precedence of orders of the day, and are usually discussed till late. Hence, any one who wants to stop a private bill has only to put down a notice of opposition to it, and in nine cases out of ten its chance of passing is gone. Even the Government have been considerably worried in this way, one Irish member having made a practice of "blocking" (as it is called) nearly all their bills. But as the Government, when they care about a bill, can secure its coming on before 12:30, the hardship to them is less than to private members, whose right of proposing legislation has by this rule been rendered almost nugatory. They accordingly, or rather a few among them who are anxious to pass their own measures, urged the abolition, or at least the modification, of this rule, insisting that the signature of six or twelve or twenty members should be required to make a notice of opposition valid instead of allowing it to emanate from one member only. Neither the Government, however, nor the House would listen to these complaints, for neither really cares about private members' bills. The Government obtained a slight alteration in the rule, which rendered it less annoying to themselves, but they showed no disposition to aid in any legislation but what they themselves bring forward. The House of Commons at large does not much care about legislation. Most of its members never have brought in a bill, and never mean to do so. They are pretty well satisfied with the world as it is, and doubt if more laws would improve it. They prefer animated party debates, or the process of fencing and sparring between Ministers and those active members of the Opposition who question them, which goes on for an hour and a half every evening, to sitting through debates on such social or economical topics as are generally undertaken by private members. And thus it happens that our legislation is now falling almost entirely into the hands of the Government of the day, which of course takes up only questions as to which a pretty lively interest already exists in the country.

Throughout these autumnal sittings, the attitude of Mr. Parnell and his friends has been quiet and guarded. They brought on one dis-

cussion on the state of Ireland, and tried to bring on another, but otherwise they have not interrupted the regular progress of business, nor have they ever obstructed in debate. When it has suited them, they have voted with the Tories; and of course it generally does suit them to oppose the Government. But they have sometimes, as on the question whether debates should be closed by a two-thirds majority or by a bare majority, supported Mr. Gladstone. The dissensions said to have existed among them have produced no open outbreak; Mr. Parnell's authority seems as generally recognized as it has ever been before. There is more disorganization in the Conservative camp, for the more ardent spirits murmur at Sir Stafford Northcote's leadership as far too gentle and decorous, desiring some one who will be always ready to lead them to a charge, however strong the enemy's entrenchments. Yet no one appears qualified to replace Sir Stafford: no one with anything like his ability, his tact, his quickness, his experience; so that one may safely predict that, if his health returns, he will remain for long enough to come at the head of his party.

Y.

THE FRENCH FINANCES.

PARIS, December 8, 1882.

THE attention of all the political minds in France is at present completely engrossed by the state of the finances. We have been living, since 1871 and the comparatively easy payment of the heavy ransom of five milliards, in a state of absolute optimism with regard to the financial capacities of the country. Year after year, month after month, the receipts of the treasury were augmented; now the current is suddenly reversed, and we have entered on an era of pessimism. The signal of the change in the state of public opinion was given by the highest authority we have at present in matters of finance, M. Léon Say, the eminent economist, who has held several times since the war the post of Minister of Finance. M. Say belongs to the party which calls itself the Left Centre; he accepted the Republic without much enthusiasm, being one of the followers of M. Thiers. He was Minister of Finance in the late Cabinet of M. de Freycinet, and was almost absolute in his department. Everybody was surprised by an article which he published in November in the *Journal des Économistes*. The economists, who have much regard for M. Léon Say, had been surprised before—namely, when they saw him declare himself, two or three years ago, against the conversion of our five per cents, which were issued at 82 after the war, and which rose steadily to 116. This conversion would make for the state a saving of sixty millions a year. But it is evident that in this case M. Léon Say made a sacrifice to his political friends: the Republicans believe, justly or unjustly, that the conversion of the five per cents would be highly unpopular, and they dare not take the responsibility of such a simple and natural measure.

On the question of the public works, and especially of the railways, the policy of M. Léon Say was also faltering and timid at first. He is an economist, and consequently could not but declare himself against the absurd idea of state management of the railroads. There are in France no perpetual concessions, and the state has reserved for itself, under specified conditions, the right to buy in the lines of the six companies, called the great companies—the East, the North, the West, the Paris-Lyons-Marseilles, the Orléans, and the South. The "rachat," as it is called, has been the great ambition of many politicians, because they belong to the school which would place everything in the hands of

the state. This rachat could only be approached by degrees. First of all, the state constituted, with some small lines put together, a network of state railroads, administered by officials, and even by Deputies and Senators, chosen by the Minister of Public Works. The incongruity of such a combination was obvious; the administrators, not being appointed by any shareholders, were dependents of the Minister: in the morning they were his administrators, his clerks; in the afternoon, in the Senate or in the Chamber, they became legislators, they became his judges.

The second step was what was called the Freycinet network. This able engineer traced new lines all over France in every direction, and it was decided that they should be constructed by the state. Who should work them after they were constructed? This was left in the dark. The enemies of the great companies prophesied that they would be worked either by the state directly or by new farming companies, who would become the rivals of the old lines. All over France the state engineers began their work. It was expected that four milliards of francs would be spent in the construction of the Freycinet network, but every year the Deputies succeeded in adding new lines to it, in order to please their electors. Every farmer, every important man in a department, asks with the greatest composure for the line which is most convenient for him. The question of the railways is still in suspense; immense works are begun everywhere, and nobody knows what will become of the lines which are in construction in all the departments. The experiment of the "state line" has proved a complete failure. The accounts of this line are difficult to establish, as the accountants do not take into consideration the price paid by the state for the acquisition of the various lines which form this network; they simply compare the working expenses and the receipts, without taking into consideration the interest on the capital or the sinking fund, and, even while they omit these items, they cannot help showing a yearly deficit. The state line does not pay; it has cost already forty millions of francs, and people cannot help asking themselves what would become of the dividends of the existing lines not managed by state officials, if they became the property of the state.

It is, of course, not impossible for the state to manage a railway successfully, as it manages the post or the telegraphs. French functionaries, as a whole, are a very intelligent and a very honest body; but state management is not economical, and the pressure of the yearly dividend is not felt in the working of the state railways. The words of M. Say are very severe: "State management is a disaster." In four years, the net earnings of the lines which form what is called the old *réseau* of the state have diminished by 20 per cent. The proportion of the expenses to the receipts rises yearly: from 78.76 per cent., which it was in 1878, it had risen in 1881 to 84.63 per cent. In three years the operating deficit has been 40,000,000 francs. The taxpayers have borne the expense of this experiment; they are out of pocket a large sum, and are liable to pay every year increasing sums to cover the losses.

It was said at first that the state line would be a model; it is clearly not a model. It was said that it would give tariffs which would serve as an ideal—the French are so fond of equality, that they have been enamored with notions of equal tariffs; they have understood the tariff as something equivalent to taxes. The inventors of formulas have not understood what part tariffs take in the expense of production. Why should the state pay the expenses of transportation any more than any other commercial ex-

penses? The price of most things is formed by the addition of expenses of transportation. A ton of coal has no great value in the mine; it becomes more valuable by being first transported horizontally to the pit, then vertically to the surface, then again by rail to the port, to the city, to the engine. It is a perfect absurdity to ask the state to provide the means of transportation, or railways. The state, in a country conducted on sound economical principles, ought to have nothing whatever to do with the tariffs. Therefore it is idle to represent the state railways as a field of experiment for the application of the best tariffs.

The state, nevertheless, is constructing now, as I have said, an immense network of new lines. These lines are not finished, but already it is known that they will be extremely costly. I hear of some lines in the south where the condemnation of the land alone has cost as much as 300,000 francs per kilometre. The plans of M. de Freycinet involved the expenditure of immense sums. M. Say says that "a year ago the budget for this plan of extraordinary works was steadily on the increase; from four milliards we arrived at six milliards, and the public asked itself if we should not soon attain to seven milliards. During the year spent since these prophecies were made, new accounts have been rendered, and now it is no longer a question of seven milliards, but of eight milliards." And what is there to show for all the expense already incurred? "There are not 100 kilometres finished out of the great scheme voted by the Chambers." Everywhere, to be sure, the works are begun; I have it from a good authority that if the works begun were finished, the expense would be four milliards. In that case, we should have to drop half of the Freycinet plan. What is really begun—the lines which have made condemnations, and works of art—cannot be abandoned; we cannot leave the new lines unfinished.

"Pendent opera interrupta."

With the strictest economy, and even if a Chamber were found ready to abandon for the present all the lines which are not fairly begun, we have to face an extraordinary expense of four milliards—an expense almost as large as the ransom of the late war.

This would not be a very alarming future if the receipts kept on the increase, and if there was a strict economy in all the departments of the state. But economy is not the order of the day; the Chamber has a very laudable desire to improve public instruction, but was it necessary to vote nearly a milliard for the construction of new schools, to build in every village a sort of palace, quite out of proportion with the modest houses of the peasantry? M. Say says boldly that he believes the Government will soon be forced by necessity to interrupt all its works.

"Let us have no illusion; we shall be dragged slowly to the suspension of all our works in our ports, on our railways, in our schools, on our district roads, if we do not take vigorous measures and get out of the confusion in which we have lived for several years. If things go to this extremity, we shall fail in all the promises we have made to the people, and shall compromise—perhaps for a long time—the credit of France. It is really a horrible situation for those who love their country and republican government. It is high time that the Chambers should hear the truth."

This is surely strong language; and M. Say ends by advising the Government to sell the state line on the best possible terms, and to treat with the old companies for the construction and working of the new lines which have been found absolutely necessary. The budget of 1882 has a deficit—not a very high one; but M. Say prophesies that we are entering on a period of deficits. He produces some curious statistics on

infractions in respect of indirect contributions (wine, brandy, beer, tobacco, custom-house, etc.). In 1876 there were 13,270 infractions of the privilege of transporting wine (*droit de circulation*); in 1881 there were only 6,138. The licensed wine merchants have free play. In 1876 they were convicted of 17,303 infractions; in 1881, of only 9,134. They have not become less desirous to defraud the Treasury, but the officials are now afraid of them, as they are great electoral agents, and they can complain of an unlucky receiver of indirect taxes to their Senator and their Deputy, and have him changed and sent to the other end of France, under the pretext that the official is not sufficiently devoted to republican institutions. "In reality," says M. Say, "there is no longer any repression, and fraud becomes a common right." It is not possible, with this alarming extension of petty frauds, that the public receipts should keep on the increase; and this increase was a necessary item of our budgets. "There is much to do," says M. Say, "in order to save our budget. The difficulties are political, administrative, and financial. Financially, there is nothing to do but to give to private industry all the railways managed or undertaken by the state; politically, we might stop the evil by adjourning all expensive projects and all propositions to diminish taxes."

THE HAMILTON COLLECTION.

BERLIN, November 25, 1882.

THE purchase of the manuscripts of the Hamilton Collection by the Prussian Government still forms the leading topic among our scholars and artists. The more becomes known of these rich treasures the more gratified are the connoisseurs and will be the scholars of all countries. The whole business of their acquisition was carried on with the utmost secrecy, and only leaked out after the arrival of the manuscripts here. All parties interested acted with a wonderful discretion, and deserve the highest praise. Dr. Lippmann, the director of the engraving department in the Royal Museum, secretly went to London and succeeded in carefully examining the single pieces. Mr. Schoene, the chief councillor of the Minister of Public Instruction, to whose department the decision on artistic and literary purchases belongs, agreed at once with Dr. Lippmann, while Minister Gossler endorsed Mr. Schoene's proposals, and Mr. Scholz, the Finance Minister, without a moment's hesitation, furnished the cash. Last, but not least, the Crown Prince obtained his father's consent to spending so large a sum, which the old gentleman ordinarily does not like to part with for such purposes. Besides being an able and successful general, the Crown Prince is a gentleman of great taste and refinement, who fully appreciated the extraordinary value of the collection, and acted accordingly, for without his good offices the purchase would never have been completed. The price paid amounts in all to \$750,000 (3,000,000 marks), of which about one-half will be recovered by the resale of a part of the collection, of no moment for scientific purposes, and by the sale of duplicates of other rare, but not so fine, pieces in our libraries and museums.

It is not from an egoistic national, but from a broader scientific, point of view that Prussia glories in the acquisition of these manuscripts, for they now belong to the scholars of all nations, while, for the last thirty years at least, at a castle on the frontier of England and Scotland, they have been inaccessible to all outsiders. It is, in my opinion, a great boon that so many noble and instructive *chefs d'œuvre* had to be sold by a ducal spendthrift. As the ancestors of the present Hamilton were for centuries patrons of fine arts, it may be deplorable in the

interest of the family that the young Duke fritters away by his vices a noble inheritance; but it is much better that the finest specimens of old manuscripts, instead of being locked up or spread over one-half of Europe and America, or of adorning the shelves of a modern parvenu, are kept together in Berlin as an undivided treasure. If Prussia, by buying the Hamilton manuscripts, has outflanked England, as the English papers represent, let her take revenge by acquiring other treasures of art or literature, and let her throw them open to the civilized world.

The collection has for the present been deposited on the third floor of the new museum, where, as far as it was possible in the time allowed me, I have carefully examined it. It will take several months before everything will be put in order for general use. Of the 692 manuscripts which form the stock of the collection, the Occidental ones, with a few exceptions, are written on parchment, but the Oriental ones on palmetto leaves and papyrus, while Turkish and Persian manuscripts have softly-toned paper in red and gold. Above all, I would mention several editions of the Koran with alternating red and gold lines, and a variety of prayer-books of which the binding, the nice little chains and reticules, with the girdles in and on which they were worn, exhibit the most exquisite workmanship. Of the authors of antiquity I found three editions of Horace, among them the splendid Neapolitan copy for Ferdinand I., and four editions of Virgil, all belonging to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Aristotle is represented by several copies written between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries, while two fine editions of the Justinian Digests are as old as the twelfth century. The richest of all, however, is the clerical literature of the Middle Ages. Among the Biblical copies, the Irish psalter, dating from the middle of the seventh century, is the oldest: it was written by Saint Salaberga for the nuns of her convent. The big initials form the most valuable ornaments of the volume. They represent dragon-heads, and are founded on the old prototypes of Northern wood-cutting. There is another copy of the Gospels, of the seventh century, written on purple parchment with golden letters, and remarkable for its history, for it was a present from Leo X. to Henry VIII. of England, when the latter declared against Luther and obtained as a token of gratitude from the Pope the title of "Defensor fidei." An old Hebrew Bible with rare and remarkable ornaments leads us back to the year 1292. Of English historical works I will only adduce a history of Cnut the Great, written by an Anglo-Saxon in 1036, which, after the death of the King, by order of his widow, Queen Emma, was written for her use, and for centuries had been preserved in the monastery of St. Augustine at Canterbury.

The Italian volumes, which are illustrated under Byzantine influence, form a direct contrast to the above, and offer a very rich store of knowledge for the development of Christian painting. Among the several editions of the Latin Bible, let me call your attention to that written by John of Ravenna in the fourteenth century. The profuseness of artistic motives—of portraits and ornaments—contained in its 279 large compositions and in the numerous initials and borders is unparalleled in a work of that time. The great missal of 1520, owing to the artistic importance of each of its pages, occupies the first rank among the Florentine manuscripts. It is profusely illustrated with ornaments and figures of the Italian Renaissance, and was written by Ludovico Vincentino for the Cardinal Julius Medici, afterward Pope Clement VII. What increases the value of this matchless collection is the vividness of the colors, which have never been renewed. These miniatures are the more

interesting as they were executed at the time when the art was already doomed by the invention of the printing-press. It is as if this noble art, before yielding to a new epoch, strove to show what perfection it could attain. The lower German and Burgundy school and the Augsburg calligraphers, toward the end of the fifteenth century, by works such as the *Grimani Breviarium*, now in the St. Mark's Library at Venice, or Dietrich Wagner's prayer-books, written for the Emperor Maximilian, and still in the city library of Augsburg, amply corroborate this fact. I can only point out the two gems of the collection. The first is the Beauvais Law-book. It contains the habits, customs, and statutes of the French territory of Beauvais, written in 1283 by the most celebrated French medieval lawyer, Philip Beaumanoir. It was unknown to Count Beugnot, the last editor of this work, and was, toward the end of the eighteenth century, bought from a French gentleman, M. Bucquet de Bruchaux, who had inherited it from the heirs of old Beaumanoir. Being one of the most prominent French illustrated manuscripts of the Middle Ages, it has seventy-one elegantly-finished miniature paintings, which were evidently drawn in the fourteenth century, and, adorning the head of each chapter, are intended to interpret juridical acts and symbolize them. A learned jurist is now comparing this copy with the printed editions of the work, in order to ascertain whether it has any value for comparisons and amendments of the text.

Far above all, however, stands one manuscript, the acquisition of which is sufficient to make an epoch in the history of any museum. It is Dante's 'Divina Comedia,' with not less than eighty-eight drawings by Sandro Botticelli, one of the most remarkable masters of the early Italian Renaissance. The present copy was made in or about the year 1480, and was evidently written for illustration by this artist; sixty-eight folio pages are only written on one side, the other side having been kept open for Botticelli. The parts containing the 'Purgatorio' and the 'Paradiso' are completed, but some cantos of the 'Inferno' are still unfinished. There are two other manuscripts of Dante in the collection, made between 1340 and 1350, which are much more important for the criticism of the poem; but the drawings of Botticelli are a work complete and perfect in itself, unsurpassed by that of any great master of his time. All the drawings are sketched with the pen; some of them are not finished, but fully executed in their outlines, and render all that the artist aimed at with consummate beauty and efficacy. One single leaf is executed in colors—whether by the master himself or by one of his successors, I cannot decide. The book is quite fresh; all the sixty-eight drawings are in the best state of preservation. It alone is worth the money paid for the whole collection. A single leaf from Botticelli's hand would have been a treasure, but the complete work can hardly be valued. Its acquisition is a national conquest much better for ourselves and humanity than a victory in the field.

We Germans have the ambition to make Berlin one of the leading centres of liberal arts, science, and scholarship. For the attainment of this end very large sums are necessary, but they will be spent most cheerfully. Having succeeded in securing the Pergamon marbles, having paid the necessary funds for the excavations in Olympia, made under the direction of our best scholars and antiquarians, and having purchased the Hamilton manuscripts, we all know that this is only the beginning. May the future be as propitious in this respect as the past has been!

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Correspondence.

SOUTHERN HOMICIDE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: You will observe that Redfield's statistics are "assailed" in the November number of the *Deutsche Rundschau*, in an article entitled "Individualismus in den Vereinigten Staaten." The author has evidently given the subject considerable thought, and these few pages might be read with profit by a large class of intelligent people whose opinions have been formed from the sensational reports of partisan journals. Is not moderation in judgment resulting from freedom from prejudice one of the essentials of the highest civilization? W.

TEXARKANA, TEXAS, December 16, 1882.

[We have read the article in the *Rundschau*. The writer of it wholly errs in ascribing anti-Southern feelings to the late Mr. Redfield, and the only point of any consequence he makes against his book does not touch the essential facts which Mr. Redfield gathered with so much labor and presented with so much force. We are persuaded that the circulation of his book at the South as a tract would be productive of enormous good.—ED. NATION.]

COL. BYRD, OF VIRGINIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your last issue, of December 14, containing the article on "The Dismal Swamp," occurs the following sentence: "It was a certain Col. Byrd, it seems, to whom was assigned the task of running a survey," etc.

It would appear from this that the writer of the article was not aware of the fact that Col. Byrd was one of the most prominent and distinguished among the colonial gentry of Virginia. The book known as 'Byrd's Survey' is one of the wittiest and raciest of the colonial writings. Prof. Tyler, in his 'History of American Literature,' says:

"Perhaps the most accomplished and the wittiest Virginian of the colonial time was William Byrd, of Westover, a man of princely fortune and princely ways. Educated in England, he was called to the bar in the Middle Temple, studied in the Low Countries, visited the Court of France, and was Fellow of the Royal Society. In England he had the acquaintance of many of the first persons of the age for knowledge, wit, virtue, and high station. Returning to his native land, he entered upon a long career of public and private usefulness. He was receiver-general of the King's revenues, for thirty-seven years member of the Council, and at last its President. His course in private life was brilliant and attractive. On his estate at Westover he lived in great magnificence. He was a student of science, a man of wit, of letters, of elegant tastes, and had the best library in that part of America."

William Byrd kept a journal of his 'Survey,' which, after lying in manuscript for a century, was first published in 1841, under the title, 'The History of the Dividing Line.' Of this little book Tyler says: "It is almost unique in our colonial age; one of the most delightful of the literary legacies which that age has handed down to ours."

The late John R. Thompson thus writes:

"I carried no letter of introduction to Ma-caulay. Some months before, I had sent him a copy of the Westover MSS. of Col. Wm. Byrd. On receiving my card he bade the servant show me to his sitting-room. I was greeted with a kindly shake of his hand, and with thanks for the volume. He said he had derived great delight from the narrative and the pictures it presented of society in Virginia one hundred and

twenty years ago. He commended the style as conformed to the best English standards."

A complete edition of Byrd's writings was published in 1866, edited by T. H. Wynne.

E. H. H.

AUGUSTA, KY., Dec. 18, 1882.

THE NATURAL METHOD OF TEACHING LATIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Will you allow me a brief space in your columns for a statement of what we are attempting to do towards instituting a reform in the method of teaching Latin?

I took charge of this institution in September, 1881. The first year I devoted attention to remodelling the work in the training school, and to improving the methods of teaching geography and the English language.

My own unsatisfactory experience in college and a good many years of observation had led me to feel that the ordinary way of teaching Latin and Greek is very unsatisfactory. It is drudging for the teacher, a burden to the student, and yields no results commensurate with the expenditure of time and strength given to it. These facts have been a terrible weapon in the hands of those who have been attempting to supplant the classics by the sciences or by modern languages. By the terms of the contract establishing this normal school, an academic department is to be maintained and boys and girls are to be fitted for college. I am constantly in receipt of applications for teachers who are competent to take charge of union or graded schools, and to teach Latin and Greek. These considerations led me, when a vacancy occurred in the chair of ancient languages, to seek for a teacher fitted to introduce into teaching the ancient languages something of the same spirit of life, enthusiasm, progress that characterizes our teachers in other departments (no word of English is spoken in our class-rooms where French and German are taught).

Prof. E. S. Shumway, A.M., Amherst, who had been teaching Latin with rare success, was invited to take up the work. He entered upon his duties here in September with three classes composed of those who had begun their work under his predecessor, and two classes of about thirty each, of beginners. The first class is composed of boys and girls of from ten to fourteen years of age. In this class no book is used. Constant appeal is made to the eye. Objects, pictures, maps, etc., are exhibited and talked about (in Latin) until the children learn to associate the Latin name with the object as readily as they do English words. Questions are asked and responses given in Latin. Usually little or no English is used by teacher or pupils. The ear as well as the eye is thus trained, and a nicety in pronunciation is secured. The colloquial feature is made so prominent that all must be on the alert, and thus attention is secured. It is quite noticeable with what interest the children take part in the recitation. They are taught fables, which they thoroughly memorize and recite until they become as familiar as a, b, c. These are made the basis of questions, which at first are so formed as to admit of answers in the exact words of the text. After this the questions require answers involving the use of words in new relations, and thus the children become acquainted with inflection and other grammatical points. This way of teaching grammar by leading pupils to observe the necessary changes words undergo in actual use is one of the distinctive features of the method.

The other class of beginners is composed of older pupils, ranging from sixteen to twenty-five years of age. They begin by committing to

memory portions of the first book of Cæsar. This they recite and use as the little ones do the fables and easy Roman history. The meaning of new words is explained to them in Latin by their derivation, or by synonyms or opposites, or by explanations, so that the student is compelled to think in Latin. The exercise in forming answers, at first very simple, soon grows into exercises in prose composition, with this important point in its favor, that the student is talking of that which he knows something about and in which he is very deeply interested, and his language is modelled after the Latin of Cæsar. A series of questions is given to which written answers are required, and simple English sentences based on the Latin text are given which are to be turned into Latin. As soon as the student has progressed far enough to feel the need of it and to be able to do it, he is set to work scheduling the nouns and verbs with which use has made him familiar. Points of syntax and the law of arrangement come into view naturally. As soon as he is prepared for it the student is set to reading at sight easy portions of Cæsar, the difficult places being omitted from the first reading.

These are the essential features of the method. It will be seen that the plan is not wholly novel. Many of its points have been insisted upon by the great educational reformers of the past. It is in some respects the same plan which is employed in teaching modern languages, and in teaching Latin in the various so-called summer schools. It has, however, features of its own, and, so far as I know, this method is not employed anywhere else in this country. It is attracting a great deal of attention. Commendatory letters have been received from many of our most eminent educators. "The Latin Chain"—composed of teachers of Latin in colleges, academies, and normal schools in more than half the States of the Union—comprises many wide-awake, progressive men and women who only want a leader in a great reform. *Latine*, a monthly journal in Latin, is furnished to members of the Chain, and aims to give practical help and suggestions to those who are interested in this method.

This is not a money-making scheme, but is an honest endeavor to make this school helpful in the great work of improving our methods of teaching.

Very respectfully,

T. J. MORGAN.

POTSDAM, N. Y., December 1, 1882.

Notes.

FUNK & WAGNALLS have arranged with Cassell & Co. to issue from their imported plates a very cheap edition of Canon Farrar's new work, 'The Early Days of Christianity.' There will be no abridgment of the original.

Chatto & Windus, London, have in preparation 'The New Southwest: Travelling Sketches from Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Northern Mexico,' by Ernst von Hesse-Wartegg. It will contain one hundred illustrations and three maps.

We learn from the Boston *Christian Register* that the Rev. James Freeman Clarke intends giving a number of week-day evening talks on "The Anti-Slavery Conflict in the United States." The course will not be free, but the proceeds will be used to meet the expenses of the Sunday-school of the Church of the Disciples. In time these lectures, we suppose, will find their way into print as a book.

The "interview" in which Mr. Herbert Spencer summed up his impressions of this country, and the proceedings at the farewell banquet in

his honor, have been printed in pamphlet form by D. Appleton & Co., under the title 'Herbert Spencer on the Americans.'

Harper & Bros. have brought out Blackmore's 'Lorna Doone' in their two-column Franklin Square Library series.

Mr. Robert Grant's metrical "tragedy," 'The Lambs,' which, we believe, first appeared in the *Century*, has been made into a book with paper covers, illustrated, and handsomely printed (Osgood). The lambs themselves can hardly afford to buy it, though it is written for their good. The bulls and bears of our exchanges will therefore have their own way, as usual.

One of the most acceptable books of the season is 'Epics and Romances of the Middle Ages' (Lippincott), "adapted from the work of Dr. W. Wagner by W. W. Macdowell, and edited by W. S. W. Anson." It is a thick octavo of nearly five hundred pages, copiously illustrated, and consists of three parts. The first is "the Amelung and kindred legends," including Dietrich, of Bern. Part II. is the Nibelung group, including Beowulf; Part III., the Carolingian legends—those of King Arthur and Tannhäuser. It would have been well, we think, considering that this is at any rate only a selection, to omit the Arthurian legends, which have been made so familiar of late. The Nibelung song is not so well known but that we are grateful for this part of the work, but it is a real acquisition to have such stories as those of Dietrich and Roland in so convenient and satisfactory a form.

Two new volumes have been added to the "Young Folks' History" series (Estes & Lauriat): 'Mexico,' by Frederick A. Ober, and an abridgment of Mrs. Strickland's 'Queens of England,' by Rosalie Kaufmann. Both are decided acquisitions. We do not know of any other accessible history of Mexico from the earliest times to the present, and Mr. Ober has done his work with great industry and thoroughness. The 'Queens of England,' too, though very agreeable reading, is too voluminous in its entirety, and this abridgment appears to have been made with excellent judgment. Both volumes are copiously illustrated, but with illustrations of very varying merit. The history of Mexico contains numerous good representations of Mexican monuments and antiquities.

Mr. Rossiter Johnson's 'History of the French War ending in the Conquest of Canada' (Dodd, Mead & Co.) is hardly to be reckoned a juvenile so much as a brief popular history of the series of events which led to the acquisition of Canada. It covers the whole history of that colony and of the French in America down to the treaty of peace in 1763. It is illustrated with half-a-dozen double-page woodcuts of high merit. This will be found a very serviceable book for those who wish for a short connected account of the relations between the French and the English colonies.

Marcus Ward & Co., 734 Broadway, send us two of their ornamented calendars for 1883—'Day unto Day,' the daily date block containing selections from the Scriptures; and the 'Shakespeare Calendar,' correspondingly equipped. Other reminders of the season and of the new year come to us from Raphael Tuck & Sons, London, through their agents, the Forbes Company, Boston. These are illuminated Christmas and New Year's cards, called of the 'Royal Academy,' with reference to the designers of them. The style of a few is sufficiently individual to be noticeable as uncommon, but neither the fancy nor the art is of a very high order.

Vol. viii. of the Proceedings of the Naval Institute at Annapolis contains at least two interesting articles, one, by Lieut. J. B. Murdock, U. S. N., on "The Naval Use of the Dynamo Machine and Electric Light"; the other, by

Lieut. W. H. Jaques, U. S. N., on "The Fryer Buoyant Propeller," an amphibious vessel which crawls upon the land or rolls through the sea, the body being entirely lifted above the waves. Diagrams accompany both these articles.

With the December number the *Bibliographer* (London: Elliot Stock; New York: J. W. Bouton) begins its second year and third volume. Mr. Wheatley and his assistants have made a very interesting publication, for which a long life is doubtless in store. It is very neatly printed, but just falls short of being a thing of beauty typographically. The current number corrects Franklin's autobiography by showing that while at the case in London, in 1724-25, he worked not upon the second but the third edition of Wollaston's 'Religion of Nature,' copies of which are common enough.

Our occasional London correspondent, Mr. Albert V. Dicey, has just been appointed Vinerian Professor of English Law, at Oxford.

Apparently it pays to sell libraries at auction rather than at private sale. We mentioned not long since the offer of the Sunderland collection (which has already brought over £46,000) to an American library for £25,000. We have since heard that Quaritch offered £18,000 for it before the sale. He must have already paid almost as much for what he has taken. The O'Callaghan library, sold in this city a fortnight since, was refused by Columbia College at \$7,500, and brought over \$12,000. The sale of the second portion of the Beckford Library, by the way, was concluded in London on Saturday last.

From J. Rothschild, Paris, we have received Charles Yriarte's 'Un Condotiere au XVe Siècle—Rimini,' which was reviewed at length in our Paris letter last February. It is a beautiful book, rich in some two hundred illustrations, quite equalling in interest those of the same author's 'Venice.' The name of Rimini, says M. Yriarte, "recalls to the majority only a woman's frailty, a husband's fury, and a few verses of an immortal song." He briefly relates the story of Francesca da Rimini in his second chapter, reserving fuller treatment for a separate work, 'Françoise de Rimini dans la légende et dans l'histoire,' which has also been published by M. Rothschild, and of which we shall give some account hereafter.

Mr. S. L. Fleishman, who, in his 'Prose Miscellanies from Heinrich Heine,' had proved his ability to translate into English one of the most untranslatable of German writers, has now published a version of 'The Romantic School' (Henry Holt & Co.). The volume contains, in addition, 'The Suabian Mirror' and the 'Introduction to Don Quixote'—the former a fitting complement to the 'Romantic School,' though not written for the delectation of the French; the latter unquestionably the greatest prefatory luxury which any *édition de luxe* ever offered. Heine will never appear natural in an English garb. He was the most sentimental of Germans in his moods, and the most brilliant of Frenchmen in *esprit*, and thoroughly anti-British in his prejudices. Still, much of his wit and grace is retained in this translation, which is generally smooth and idiomatic. Careful proof-reading, however, would have detected some inelegances and Germanisms, not to speak of the numerous typographical errors, such as "Wittemburg" (p. 19), "Hamelin" (p. 37), "Henrich" (p. 42), "Barnhagen" (p. 66), "Phédra" (p. 90), "at Württemberg" (p. 130), etc., etc.

According to *Das Magazin*, the "French officer" whose 'Dies Irae' we briefly mentioned last week, is a young German author, Karl Bleibtreu—a singular name to be associated with such a personification.

B. Westermann & Co. have received Parts 57-60 of the chromo edition of Brehm's 'Thierle-

ben,' which conclude with the Mammals the first volume of this standard natural history. Besides the regular colored plates and the interspersed woodcuts, there is a figured title-page and a full-page portrait of Brehm himself, his gun at his side and note-book in hand. An index completes this portion of the work.

The same firm also send us Parts 7-11 of H. Düntzer's illustrated edition of Goethe's Works (Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt), breaking off amid the "West-östlicher Divan." And while this popular publication is so near its beginning, there comes to hand the long-anticipated second edition of Hempel's pioneer critical text of Goethe's works (Berlin: Gustav Hempel; New York: Westermann). No longer of pocket size, it appears as a broad duodecimo, with clear print, wide margins, and numbered lines, being uniform in these respects with the Hempel 'Faust' of 1879. The revision has been intrusted to that eminent Goethe scholar, Dr. G. von Loeper. In his introduction he explains the arrangement he has adopted for the poems, and otherwise makes known his aim to prepare an edition not scientific, but for the general use of cultivated readers. The notes (*Anmerkungen*) are placed at the end, and contain bibliographical information in regard to the first appearance of the poems, the circumstances that gave rise to them, their various readings, the music composed for them, etc., with a fulness and learning which give a biographic-psychologic character to this edition. Combined with the foregoing is a commentary for the obscurer or more interesting passages. The notes fill the better half of the first part of vol. i. The purchaser of this Loeper-Hempel edition of Goethe will have the most scholarly and accurate yet produced.

The pretended daughter of Alfred de Musset, who bore the anagrammatic name of Norma Tessum-Onda (Dona Musset), and died near Rochelle not long ago, is said now to have been one Joséphine Ménard, who had still another alias—Norma d'Estève de Visconti. The *Bulletin* of the Société des Archives Historiques de la Saintonge et de l'Aunis makes this correction, and adds that the young person in question "était en relations" with Henri Rochefort.

'Le Scandale d'Hier' is the title given to a pretty little pamphlet (Paris: Brunot; New York: F. W. Christern), reproducing the documents in the recent squabble between the *Figaro* and the actors of Paris. The whole affair was highly characteristic, and the pamphlet deserves a place in the collection of every student of Parisian psychology. The *Figaro* article was both brutal in expression and commonplace in theme, and it did not deserve the very keen and clever answer made by M. Coquelin in a letter to the *Temps*, reprinted in this volume. A peculiarity of the make-up of the pamphlet merits notice: it is a "double-ender"—that is to say, the *Figaro* article, with its title-page, is at one end, and the Coquelin letter, with its title-page, but upside down, is at the other.

'Les Célébrités Contemporaines' is M. Quantin's latest venture. It is to be a series of brief biographies of French notabilities published at short intervals, each sketch being accompanied by an etched portrait and a facsimile of the celebrity's signature. The fact that nine of the first twenty notabilities are dramatists shows the importance of the theatre to-day in France. These dramatists are to be touched off by M. Jules Claretie, except M. Zola, who is sketched by his disciple M. Guy de Maupassant, and M. Claretie himself, who falls to the hand of Mme. de Cherville.

—The death of Colonel Chester must have seemed to many American genealogical investi-

gators fatal to their hopes of tracing English connections. But before that untiring searcher passed away, a little volume, published at Salem, Mass., called 'Gleanings from English Records about New England Families,' showed that capable successors could be found. It now appears that they can also be had. At least, of the two compilers of the 'Gleanings,' Messrs. James A. Emmerton and Henry Fitzgilbert Waters, Mr. Waters is ready to continue as a steady avocation what was in 1879 but a holiday pastime, yet a most fruitful one (see the *Nation* for September 30, 1880). The Directors of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society announce that they are ready to begin and maintain, through Mr. Waters, "a thorough and systematic search of the English records for everything which relates to the family history of the first settlers of this country." They add that "a thorough knowledge of the genealogies of New England families, and great experience in making such investigations on both sides of the ocean, are prerequisites," and justly assert that Mr. Waters is preëminently qualified for the work in both these respects. The results of his investigations will be published in the Society's *Register*, or separately; and as they will be impartial and general in their bearing, the number of families interested in this enterprise and likely to profit by it is very great. The Society, therefore, asks for public contributions to a fund in support of it. They may be sent to the librarian, Mr. John Ward Dean, 18 Somerset Street, Boston. We hope the response may be speedy and liberal; no more interesting historical mission has ever been instituted in this country. Mr. Waters will occupy the position of counsel whose services are retained by the Society, while he is at liberty to give some portion of his time to private clients—in this latter particular exactly replacing Colonel Chester.

—The valuable Shakspeare library collected by Col. E. H. Thomson, of Flint, Michigan, has recently been purchased for the State University, at Ann Arbor. Mr. Thomson has been engaged in collecting this library for more than thirty years; and, during two periods of residence in London, he was able to take advantage of unusually favorable opportunities for adding to its extent and its value. The library contains nearly five hundred volumes of texts of Shakspeare, and about two hundred volumes of Shaksperiana, besides fifty other volumes relating to the English drama in general. The volumes are all bound, many of them in half calf or half morocco, and some in full calf. The earlier folio editions and the quartos are lacking; but, beginning with the fourth folio (1685), all the more important editions down to the present time are included. The texts comprise, among others, the following: Theobald's (1733), seven volumes; Hanmer's quarto (1744), six volumes; Johnson's first and second editions (1765-68), eight volumes each; Capell's (1767), ten volumes; Bell's (1774), nine volumes, and (1788) twenty volumes; Rann's (1786), six volumes; Johnson's and Steevens's (1793), fifteen volumes; Malone's (1794), sixteen volumes; Boydell-Steevens's (1802-3), atlas folio, nine volumes; Manley Wood's (1806), fourteen volumes; Heath's quarto (1807), six volumes; Reed's variorum (1813), twenty-one volumes; Pickering's diamond edition (1825), nine volumes; Knight's pictorial (early copy), eight volumes; Verplanck's (1847), three volumes; Dyce's first and second editions (1857-66), fifteen volumes; Chambers's (1861), ten volumes; White's (1863), twelve volumes; Cowden Clarke's (1864), four volumes; Le Tourneur (Paris, 1776-81), twenty volumes. Of the Shaksperiana the following are more especially worthy of mention: Kemble's 'Macbeth Reconsidered,' with Kemble's

autograph; Ireland's Forgeries, original atlas folio; Howard's 'Spirit of Shakspeare's Plays' (1833), five volumes; an elegant set, full and complete, of the Shakspeare Society Publications (1841-53); the Boydell Plates, elephant folio (Philadelphia, 1852). The exact amount paid Mr. Thomson for the library has not been made public; but it is known that Mr. James McMillan, of Detroit, gave to the University the sum of \$5,000 with which to make the purchase, and that a part of this sum still remains to be used in supplying, as far as possible, what is still needed to make the library complete in all that pertains to Shakspeare and Shakspeare's works. This munificent gift from Mr. McMillan is one sign, it is to be hoped, of an increasing disposition among men of wealth to regard educational institutions that are supported largely at public expense as proper recipients of private bounty. And it may be added here, that during the past year the library of the University of Michigan received large gifts of works on international law, classical literature, and philology, from Mr. Philo Parsons, of Detroit, and of mathematical works from Mr. E. C. Hegeler, of La Salle, Ill. Mr. George C. Mahon, of Ann Arbor, has also presented a full set of the proceedings and transactions of the Royal Irish Academy.

—We have received the following communication:

"I trust the late painful information the *Nation* has been giving us on Southern homicides may have a good effect. Facts seem to be on the *Nation's* side, but I think the inference pushed too far when it is made to explain the absence of emigration to the South and of capital invested there. Our own men, brought up on the shotgun system, are going to greener pastures in the West; and until the virgin soil of that region is reduced to the unproductive condition of our own, the tide of emigration must continue to flow there."

—A Southern clergyman, writing us upon another subject, subjoins the following postscript:

"Let me add: What you say about shooting at the South is all true. Born and bred in the South, and intensely a Southerner, having lived among gentlemen and plain people, and having had charges in different States at the South, I know that what you say is true. Our conduct in this matter is a disgrace to our civilization."

—The *Atlantic* for January opens with the first part of a dramatic sketch by Longfellow, called "Michael Angelo," in which Vittoria Colonna appears as one of the *dramatis personæ*. The dramatic faculty was never very vivid in Mr. Longfellow, and his characters can hardly be said to live again in his lines. They think, act, and speak with the voice of the author of the "Psalm of Life," and it is almost possible here and there to doubt whether the scene is laid in Italy or in Cambridge, Mass. No poet can resist writing dramas, no matter how little dramatic his genius, and, where so many brilliant minds have failed, it would be hypercritical to say that the attempt should not have been made. Hawthorne reappears, posthumously also, with another instalment of the "Ancestral Footstep," while Dr. Holmes, whose prose contributions have been recently as rare as if he were unwilling to let the public enjoy his survivorship of the old *Atlantic* generation, has "an after-breakfast talk" in which he gives some good advice to that large and importunate class which pesters authors for interviews and autographs. Mr. Whittier has a poem too, while, of the younger race of contributors, Mr. Harrison continues his "Studies in the South," and "H. H." writes in her chatty, feminine way (her way, that is, when she writes prose) of "Chance Days in Oregon." Mr. Harrison gives an entertaining account of an interview with an "outrage" manufacturer in Mis-

issippi. He was led to make the visit through hearing from Northern men, with regard to a horrible tale of wrong sent to the Northern press during the Hayes campaign, that there was no foundation for it in fact. The author of the despatch, on being asked whether it was true, laughed, and declared that it was "true as to the spirit of the South generally at that time."

"But why did you say that such and such things happened at a particular place, if they did not?" "Well, now, you know, it would not be worth while to say, at such a time, that there was lots o' devilish feeling in the South. But it rather wakes people up to tell them that something's been done at a place that they've heard of." "Yet it was not true." But he thought the use of a fable or parable was justifiable, under the circumstances, because it was the only way to give point or effectiveness to any account of the condition of the South at that time. "All writers does pretty much the same thing," he urged; "they have to."

He showed no embarrassment in talking of the affair, and seemed greatly pleased with the recollections it afforded him.

—A look into "Hawthorne's Workshop" in the *Century* contains a number of preliminary notes and studies for "Dr. Grimshawe's Secret," placed in the hands of the editor of the magazine by Mr. Julian Hawthorne. As a literary curiosity these notes, together with those published in the *Atlantic*, occupy a very high rank. They constitute "a full and clear recipe for making a Hawthorne romance"—though one, we may add, which no plagiarist will ever be able to put to use. If we did not know the notes to be authentic, we should suspect them of being a gigantic Hawthornian hoax or burlesque. This is the way, for instance, that he works up one of the characters:

"Something monstrous he must be, yet within nature and romantic probability—hard conditions! A murderer—'twon't do at all. A Mahometan—pish! If I could only hit right here, he would be the centre of interest. . . . What natural horror is there! A monkey? A Frankenstein! A man of straw! A man without a heart, made by machinery!—one who has to wind himself in order to go through the day! Wicked as he must be, there shall still be relations between him and the pauper samt. What! Shall there be an influence in the house which is said to make everybody wicked who inherits it! Nonsense! Remorse it must not be. A resurrection-man? What! what! what! A worshipper of the sun? A cannibal? a ghoul? a vampire! a man who lives by sucking the blood of the young and beautiful! He has something to do with the old Doctor's spider-theory; the great spider has got him into his web. The Doctor, before he left England, had contrived a plot of which this man is the victim. How! He has been poisoned by a Bologna sausage, and is being gnawed away by an atom at a time. He shall need a young life every five years to renew his own, and he shall have fixed upon Elsie for his next victim. Now for it! How! At any rate, he must have dreadful designs on Elsie—dreadful! dreadful! dreadful! May it not be that the revenge of the Doctor has fallen on him? No, no! Let the real difference between him and other people be very small, but pile up upon it! Ye heavens! A man with a mortal disease!—a leprosy!—a eunuch!—a cork leg!—a golden touch!—a dead hand!—a false nose!—a glass eye! The rumors of his devilish attributes may be very great; but the circumstance itself may be comparatively trifling. Some damn'd thing is the matter."

This brings us certainly much nearer the original processes of Hawthorne's mind than we ever before have got. It would be more valuable, from an artistic point of view, if "Dr. Grimshawe's Secret" had ever been artistically completed. As it is, we see the block in the rough, but the final shape which the artist would have given if we do not know. People who are fond of tracing literary relationships may possibly find in these raw notes something which makes the connection between Hawthorne's mind and that of his son plainer than it has

hitherto been. The principal illustrated articles are "Hydraulic Mining in California," by Taliesin Evans, and "The Planting of New England," by Edward Eggleston. Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, a most competent critic, writes on "The Debt of Science to Darwin," the frontispiece of the magazine being an excellent portrait from a photograph by his son, Lieutenant Leonard Darwin.

—*Harper's* for January opens with "Artist Strolls in Holland," by George H. Boughton, the illustrations, by Messrs. Boughton and Abbey, being unusually good. The return of Christmas gives Mr. J. T. Trowbridge an opportunity to teach, in characteristic verse, the duty of the rich toward the poor. Mr. Higginson has an historical article on "Old English Seamen," in which he gives some account of the exploits of Drake and Hawkins. Mr. Higginson's style is simple and natural, but his task being to describe the adventures and exploits of men who were half buccaneers, he is not at his best, for he has small sympathy with the savage instincts of the race which still lead it to make heroes of men of blood and iron, rather than of those who advance the arts of peace. Mr. Higginson is evidently puzzled, as Mr. Ruskin is, to account for the admiration that the mere destruction of life and property excites in the midst of a society which is devoted to the arts of peace, and whose first aim seems ordinarily to be the relief rather than the infliction of pain. Charles Reade contributes a literary curiosity, in the shape of a Russian love story. How far "Tit for Tat" is genuinely Russian we will not undertake to say; its authorship could hardly be mistaken, even if it were published in patristic Greek. It is not a very interesting or probable tale. Mr. Curtis discusses Mr. Herbert Spencer's remarks on American civilization, in his usual pleasant vein, in the "Easy Chair," and again introduces "Americus" as objecting to being "lectured" by English observers, however wise and good. Suppose, he says, testily, "that some American guest in England should say to his hosts that he wanted to give them some good advice, and point out to them a few of their defects, and then proceed to pat them on the head with patronizing praise, don't you think there would be a storm?" But Mr. Curtis reminds Americus that we are always asking them "how they like us?" and cannot therefore very well object to their telling us. Much of the criticism, however, is due to the fact that, until within the last ten years, each country has been a stranger to the other, and the process of cementing an international acquaintance and friendship has been full of surprises on both sides. Now that these have worn off, and we have become really familiar with each other's virtues, vices, faults, and foibles, there is getting to be less and less to say about each other, and, as a matter of fact, most of Mr. Spencer's criticism is far from new. The time will probably soon come when the English passion for analyzing the defects of American civilization, as differing from their own, will die out, because everybody will know all that is to be said on the subject.

—An article on church music in *Lippincott's*, by Mr. William F. Biddle, opens with the cautious suggestion that it may be "taken for granted that church music is meant to aid in awakening and expressing devotional feeling in the congregation," and from this Mr. Biddle safely infers that "the presence or absence in music of anything which, when performed, draws attention to the mere performance, is one of the factors governing the absence or presence of religious character in music." But the difficulty of this rule lies in the application of it, and

Mr. Biddle would, if we understand him rightly, put it to a somewhat original use in "expurgating" the works of acknowledged masters—Handel, for instance—so as to get out of them what he calls their "absurdities," and leave in them all their really devotional character. No one objects, he says, to expurgated editions of Boccaccio, Chaucer, and Rabelais, so long as their beauties are preserved—an argument which, besides being irrelevant, seems to show that Mr. Biddle is not familiar with the position of modern criticism on the subject of expurgation. The great difficulty in rewriting Handel would be that it would be impossible to reach a common agreement as to the principles on which he ought to be rewritten, or as to what are the "absurdities" that ought to be eliminated, and this Mr. Biddle seems to concede. His rule, however, might safely be observed in the composition of church music, and, in fact, in a modified form, would probably apply to all kinds of art used in aid of religion.

—The *North American* for January contains an article by Mr. Gilbert M. Tucker, in defence of "American English" against the aspersions of Mr. Fitzedward Hall. Mr. Hall, it seems, said not long since in the *Nineteenth Century*—in explanation of what he considered to be the degeneracy of the language as it appeared in the letters of Mr. William Cullen Bryant—that he, Mr. Bryant, lived "among a people among whom our language is daily becoming more and more depraved." This statement in Mr. Tucker's ears is much as if one should say of Shakspeare that he wrote bad plays because he lived among a people with whom the drama was going to the dogs; but he philosophically declares that it is not surprising when we reflect that Mr. Hall is "one of those extraordinary Americans of the Henry James, jr., stripe, who seem to regard it rather as matter of regret than otherwise that they were not born in Europe." Mr. Tucker maintains that, on the whole, the language is preserved in greater purity in this country than in England; and if he does not make this out to a certainty, he makes it very clear, at least, that the English themselves are busily engaged in corrupting and depraving the poor old common tongue on their own side. One cause which, we fancy, always makes for the preservation of good English in this country is the extraordinary sensitiveness of the average American as to solecisms in grammar, spelling, or pronunciation. In no country in the world, probably, are there so many dictionaries to the square mile, and such constant consultation of them, and such faith in them when appealed to against tradition or common local use. In this, as in other respects, an American is apt to be more conscious of what he is doing than an Englishman, who talks merely the language to which he has been accustomed from infancy without thinking of it as either right or wrong. The English, for instance, who drop and multiply their h's, or transpose their v's and w's, do it almost by nature. Here the habit is unknown; early education prevents it from growing up. Any American boy in a public school would recognize either trick as a mark of vulgarity or ignorance, much as an English gentleman or lady would. But in this question, as in so many other points at issue between the two countries, the matter is confused by the different structure of society. There is undoubtedly a larger highly educated class in England than in the United States. There are greater numbers of people whom Matthew Arnold would not call Philistines. On the other hand, there is in this country a much larger class of persons of average education. The type of the

"general reader," of whom, according to Mr. Freeman, every American editor stands in such awe, is much more common. Add to this that by the use of slang the highly educated class in England does more to deprave the language in a year than the "general reader" in this country does in ten, and it is evident that the question as to which of the two branches of the race is doing most harm to the common tongue is very complicated and difficult to determine.

—Mr. Henry James, who died in Boston on December 18, had led so retired a life for the last twenty years, and the religious philosophy of which he was the exponent was so recondite, that probably but few of the younger generation know what a striking personality he was, and what wonderful command of English he possessed. Twenty-five years ago, when he lived in New York, and took, if not an active, a sufficiently conspicuous part in the discussions then current on the various social topics of the day, the vigor and originality of his writing made one of the great treats furnished by the newspapers and periodicals. No one who has never read his side of a controversy on a subject which roused him can have an adequate idea of the picturesque vigor of his style. It was full, too, of the most delightful surprises in the way of combination and arrangement, without ever being vague or obscure. A discussion of his with Horace Greeley in the columns of the *Tribune*, about 1859, on the marriage question, apropos of the Sickles case, was a rich entertainment for those who could enjoy masterly declamation, even if they by no means shared his somewhat mystical views of the relation of husband and wife. His books reached but a small audience, and his philosophy might perhaps be best described by calling it eclectic. It had in it a little of the good of all systems and all religions, though Swedenborgian in some of its main features; but it was not a philosophy which any one but the Master could expound, and his diction was not altogether well adapted to be the medium of philosophic teaching. It was more remarkable for force and lucidity than for subtlety, and it had a power and swing which overawed the reader rather than persuaded him. Mr. James, nevertheless, had disciples all over the country. Every State contained some for whom he had solved the problem, or who believed he could solve it, and who looked to him for counsel or elucidation. To such he was an unwearied adviser, whose patience and sympathy were never exhausted. The smallness of the public, too, which read his books never discouraged him. His literary industry was independent of sales, because constant expression was necessary to his mental comfort, and a private fortune made him indifferent to publishers' accounts. Nothing which could be got from his writings, however, gave any adequate idea of the man who stood behind them. His humor was rich and perennial, and his remarkable powers of expression were never so well displayed as in giving vent to it in conversation. There were touches of the grotesque, in his comments on men and events, which gave one a new idea of what the grotesque was capable of as a contribution to social enjoyment. A more delightful companion than he was it would be hard to find. He was running over with sympathy for all sorrow, wrong, and ruth, and running over, too, with admiration for all the good men and good causes of his time. He was gifted with an abounding kindness and generosity which did much for the amusement of his friends, owing to his occasional attempts to conceal it under a show of grimness, the hollowness of which was always exposed by the unchanging benevolence that beamed from his eyes. He was in all things

a gentleman in the best sense and in all senses of the word, a gentleman both of the old and new school, and would have been a gentleman in any society or in any age. His latter years were much cheered by the success of his sons—one the well-known novelist, and the other a professor at Harvard, who has made his mark in psychology and physiology, and is one of the most promising of the younger explorers in the field of philosophy. Neither of them, unfortunately, was with him at his death. The flow of his humor continued to the last, and left no doubt that the end came to him, as for some time past he said it would come, as welcome rest. Mr. James was an early but not a frequent contributor to the *Nation*.

—Considerable interest relative to the antiquity of man on this continent is likely to be awakened by the discovery, announced some little time since, of fossil human footprints (so called) in the rock on which the Nevada State Prison, situated one and one-half miles from Carson City, is built. The prison, which is described as lying in a valley having an elevation of 4,600 feet, with the Sierra Nevada on the west, the Washoe range on the north, and the hills of the Carson desert on the east and south, occupies the crest of a sandstone hill sixty feet in height, the materials of which, extracted through convict labor, have been largely utilized for building purposes. As a result of quarrying operations the rock has been removed from an area covering approximately one and three-quarters acres, and to a depth varying from fifteen to thirty-two feet, the actual depth beneath the surface of the stratum containing the footprints being about fifteen feet. From the presence of fresh-water shells of the genera *Anodonta* and *Physa*, and the general lay of the strata, it would appear not improbable that the locality represents the border of an ancient lake or pond, whose basin had gradually been filled in by the detritus washed off the neighboring mountain slopes.

—The so-called human footprints (and, indeed, an inspection of the outlines furnished by Dr. Harkness would scarcely permit of their being classed as anything other than the footprints of the genus *homo*) are grouped into six series, each series being represented by a number of impressions (from eight to seventeen) in regular order, "and each showing more or less plainly the imprint of a sandal." In no instance is there a complete impression of the foot—i. e., toe and heel—but enough remains in most cases to enable a probably correct restoration to be made of the entire outline. In the series of tracks most carefully measured the average stride was found to be two feet and three inches, or very nearly that which is made by the human species at the present day. But, singularly enough, the straddle, or transverse distance between the opposite feet, reckoned from the centres of the impressions, measured fully eighteen inches; and, indeed, the length of the impressions themselves marked eighteen and one-half inches, with a breadth of heel of six inches—proportions very much beyond what we expect to meet with in normal man. These circumstances, taken in connection with the fact that there are no differentiated toe marks—the portion of the tracks corresponding to the front of the foot "being as smooth as the work of a mason for the distance of two or three inches"—have led to the supposition that the feet making the impressions must have been encased in sandals, possibly hollowed out of wood. Associated with these foot-tracks are stated to be those of various birds, the wolf, deer, horse, and mammoth, those of the last-named animal in some instances obliterating the supposed human tracks, and consequently being of later formation. As far as can be determined from the drawings and

descriptions furnished by Dr. Harkness ("Footprints found at the Carson State Prison"), there would appear to be but little if any ground for doubting that the prints in question were produced by an animal closely allied to, if not identical with, *homo*. The absence of overlapping in the impressions, such as would be brought about by the treads of the hind foot on (or near) to the mark of the fore foot, almost positively precludes the possibility of the organism having been a quadruped, such as a bear or one of the extinct megatherioids, as has been hinted at by some authorities. Again, the uniform outline of the inner border of the foot in the region of the big toe, showing no trace of opposition, would debar the claims of the anthropoid apes. No satisfactory stratigraphical evidence has thus far been submitted tending to prove, as has been maintained by some, that the rock formation containing the impressions is of older date (Pliocene) than the Post-Pliocene or Quaternary period, nor is there anything in the associated fossil remains to indicate this greater antiquity. The contemporaneity of man and the mammoth has long since been established, but it is interesting to prove that a similar contemporaneity on this continent existed between man and the indigenous horse.

—It is well known that for some years the relations between Björnson and King Oscar II. have been extremely unfriendly. Indeed, the King has been suspected of stooping to undignified attacks upon Björnson's character. Björnson is a poet, and his Majesty King Oscar is also known to be a friend to the muses. From time to time he has published translations from Goethe and other standard poets, and he has also now and then produced original poems. The latter were recently published in a German translation by Emil Jonas. For this the translator received from the author a medal "pro litteris et artibus," and he has since received other decorations from the same source. Last summer, by royal invitation, he accompanied the King on a visit to Norway. Still more recently a cyclopædia has been published at Oberhausen by A. Spaarmann, entitled '*Pierer's Konversations-Lexikon*,' and among the articles relating to Norway are found an exceedingly abusive one on Björnson and a highly laudatory one on King Oscar. Of Björnson it is said that "his talents are damaged by an assumed, affected Norse air—in short, by an affectation in which he is surpassed only by his competitor Ibsen. The mannerism (*Manirtheit*) and unnaturalness of both are particularly offensive in their language, style," and so on in a long tirade without one word of praise. Of King Oscar we read that he is a poet of the highest rank; the particular excellences of his verse are all enumerated, and it is stated that there is a "perfectly masterly metric translation into German by Emil Jonas." A Norwegian residing in Saxony was struck with the strange character of these and other articles, and accordingly wrote to the publisher for information in regard to their authorship. The answer revealed the facts, (1) that Emil Jonas was the author of the articles, including the one on Oscar II., with its "eine ganz meisterhafte Uebersetzung"; (2) that the articles had been submitted to his Majesty before they were printed, and that he had read and approved them; and (3) that King Oscar had decorated the publisher, Mr. Spaarmann, with the Vasa order, in recognition of the excellent manner in which the Norwegian and Swedish portions had been cared for. These facts need no comment. Mr. Spaarmann's letter was written simply with a view to emphasizing the value of the work in regard to Norway, for he himself had no suspicion of the bias of his Scandinavian editor.

missippi. He was led to make the visit through hearing from Northern men, with regard to a horrible tale of wrong sent to the Northern press during the Hayes campaign, that there was no foundation for it in fact. The author of the despatch, on being asked whether it was true, laughed, and declared that it was "true as to the spirit of the South generally at that time."

"But why did you say that such and such things happened at a particular place, if they did not?" "Well, now, you know, it would not be worth while to say, at such a time, that there was lots o' devilish feeling in the South. But it rather wakes people up to tell them that something's been done at a place that they've heard of." "Yet it was not true." But he thought the use of a fable or parable was justifiable, under the circumstances, because it was the only way to give point or effectiveness to any account of the condition of the South at that time. "All writers does pretty much the same thing," he urged; "they have to."

He showed no embarrassment in talking of the affair, and seemed greatly pleased with the recollections it afforded him.

—A look into "Hawthorne's Workshop" in the *Century* contains a number of preliminary notes and studies for "Dr. Grimshawe's Secret," placed in the hands of the editor of the magazine by Mr. Julian Hawthorne. As a literary curiosity these notes, together with those published in the *Atlantic*, occupy a very high rank. They constitute "a full and clear recipe for making a Hawthorne romance"—though one, we may add, which no plagiarist will ever be able to put to use. If we did not know the notes to be authentic, we should suspect them of being a gigantic Hawthornian hoax or burlesque. This is the way, for instance, that he works up one of the characters:

"Something monstrous he must be, yet within nature and romantic probability—hard conditions! A murderer—'twon't do at all. A Mahometan—pish! If I could only hit right here, he would be the centre of interest. . . . What natural horror is there? A monkey? A Frankenstein? A man of straw? A man without a heart, made by machinery?—one who has to wind himself in order to go through the day? Wicked as he must be, there shall still be relations between him and the pauper saint. What? Shall there be an influence in the house which is said to make everybody wicked who inherits it? Nonsense! Remorse it must not be. A resurrection-man? What? what? what? A worshipper of the sun? A cannibal? a ghoul? a vampire? a man who lives by sucking the blood of the young and beautiful? He has something to do with the old Doctor's spider-theory; the great spider has got him into his web. The Doctor, before he left England, had contrived a plot of which this man is the victim. How? He has been poisoned by a Bologna sausage, and is being gnawed away by an atom at a time. He shall need a young life every five years to renew his own, and he shall have fixed upon Elsie for his next victim. Now for it! How? At any rate, he must have dreadful designs on Elsie—dreadful! dreadful! dreadful! May it not be that the revenge of the Doctor has fallen on him? No, no! Let the real difference between him and other people be very small, but pile up upon it! Ye heavens! A man with a mortal disease?—a leprosy?—a eunuch?—a cork leg?—a golden touch?—a dead hand?—a false nose?—a glass eye? The rumors of his devilish attributes may be very great; but the circumstance itself may be comparatively trifling. Some damn'd thing is the matter."

This brings us certainly much nearer the original processes of Hawthorne's mind than we ever before have got. It would be more valuable, from an artistic point of view, if "Dr. Grimshawe's Secret" had ever been artistically completed. As it is, we see the block in the rough, but the final shape which the artist would have given it we do not know. People who are fond of tracing literary relationships may possibly find in these raw notes something which makes the connection between Hawthorne's mind and that of his son plainer than it has

hitherto been. The principal illustrated articles are "Hydraulic Mining in California," by Taliesin Evans, and "The Planting of New England," by Edward Eggleston. Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, a most competent critic, writes on "The Debt of Science to Darwin," the frontispiece of the magazine being an excellent portrait from a photograph by his son, Lieutenant Leonard Darwin.

—*Harper's* for January opens with "Artist Strolls in Holland," by George H. Boughton, the illustrations, by Messrs. Boughton and Abbey, being unusually good. The return of Christmas gives Mr. J. T. Trowbridge an opportunity to teach, in characteristic verse, the duty of the rich toward the poor. Mr. Higginson has an historical article on "Old English Seamen," in which he gives some account of the exploits of Drake and Hawkins. Mr. Higginson's style is simple and natural, but his task being to describe the adventures and exploits of men who were half buccaneers, he is not at his best, for he has small sympathy with the savage instincts of the race which still lead it to make heroes of men of blood and iron, rather than of those who advance the arts of peace. Mr. Higginson is evidently puzzled, as Mr. Ruskin is, to account for the admiration that the mere destruction of life and property excites in the midst of a society which is devoted to the arts of peace, and whose first aim seems ordinarily to be the relief rather than the infliction of pain. Charles Reade contributes a literary curiosity, in the shape of a Russian love story. How far "Tit for Tat" is genuinely Russian we will not undertake to say; its authorship could hardly be mistaken, even if it were published in patristic Greek. It is not a very interesting or probable tale. Mr. Curtis discusses Mr. Herbert Spencer's remarks on American civilization, in his usual pleasant vein, in the "Easy Chair," and again introduces "Americus" as objecting to being "lectured" by English observers, however wise and good. Suppose, he says, testily, "that some American guest in England should say to his hosts that he wanted to give them some good advice, and point out to them a few of their defects, and then proceed to put them on the head with patronizing praise, don't you think there would be a storm?" But Mr. Curtis reminds Americus that we are always asking them "how they like us?" and cannot therefore very well object to their telling us. Much of the criticism, however, is due to the fact that, until within the last ten years, each country has been a stranger to the other, and the process of cementing an international acquaintance and friendship has been full of surprises on both sides. Now that these have worn off, and we have become really familiar with each other's virtues, vices, faults, and foibles, there is getting to be less and less to say about each other, and, as a matter of fact, most of Mr. Spencer's criticism is far from new. The time will probably soon come when the English passion for analyzing the defects of American civilization, as differing from their own, will die out, because everybody will know all that is to be said on the subject.

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—The so-called human footprints (and, indeed, an inspection of the outlines furnished by Dr. Harkness would scarcely permit of their being classed as anything other than the footprints of the genus *homo*) are grouped into six series, each series being represented by a number of impressions (from eight to seventeen) in regular order, "and each showing more or less plainly the imprint of a sandal." In no instance is there a complete impression of the foot—i. e., toe and heel—but enough remains in most cases to enable a probably correct restoration to be made of the entire outline. In the series of tracks most carefully measured the average stride was found to be two feet and three inches, or very nearly that which is made by the human species at the present day. But, singularly enough, the straddle, or transverse distance between the opposite feet, reckoned from the centres of the impressions, measured fully eighteen inches; and, indeed, the length of the impressions themselves marked eighteen and one-half inches, with a breadth of heel of six inches—proportions very much beyond what we expect to meet with in normal man. These circumstances, taken in connection with the fact that there are no differentiated toe marks—the portion of the tracks corresponding to the front of the foot "being as smooth as the work of a mason for the distance of two or three inches"—have led to the supposition that the feet making the impressions must have been encased in sandals, possibly hollowed out of wood. Associated with these foot-tracks are stated to be those of various birds, the wolf, deer, horse, and mammoth, those of the last-named animal in some instances obliterating the supposed human tracks, and consequently being of later formation. As far as can be determined from the drawings and

descriptions furnished by Dr. Harkness ("Footprints found at the Carson State Prison"), there would appear to be but little if any ground for doubting that the prints in question were produced by an animal closely allied to, if not identical with, *homo*. The absence of overlapping in the impressions, such as would be brought about by the treads of the hind foot on (or near) to the mark of the fore foot, almost positively precludes the possibility of the organism having been a quadruped, such as a bear or one of the extinct megatherioids, as has been hinted at by some authorities. Again, the uniform outline of the inner border of the foot in the region of the big toe, showing no trace of opposition, would debar the claims of the anthropoid apes. No satisfactory stratigraphical evidence has thus far been submitted tending to prove, as has been maintained by some, that the rock formation containing the impressions is of older date (Pliocene) than the Post-Pliocene or Quaternary period, nor is there anything in the associated fossil remains to indicate this greater antiquity. The contemporaneity of man and the mammoth has long since been established, but it is interesting to prove that a similar contemporaneity on this continent existed between man and the indigenous horse.

—It is well known that for some years the relations between Björnson and King Oscar II. have been extremely unfriendly. Indeed, the King has been suspected of stooping to undignified attacks upon Björnson's character. Björnson is a poet, and his Majesty King Oscar is also known to be a friend to the muses. From time to time he has published translations from Goethe and other standard poets, and he has also now and then produced original poems. The latter were recently published in a German translation by Emil Jonas. For this the translator received from the author a medal "pro litteris et artibus," and he has since received other decorations from the same source. Last summer, by royal invitation, he accompanied the King on a visit to Norway. Still more recently a cyclopaedia has been published at Oberhausen by A. Spaarmann, entitled 'Pierer's Konversations-Lexikon,' and among the articles relating to Norway are found an exceedingly abusive one on Björnson and a highly laudatory one on King Oscar. Of Björnson it is said that "his talents are damaged by an assumed, affected Norse air—in short, by an affectation in which he is surpassed only by his competitor Ibsen. The mannerism (*Maniertheit*) and unnaturalness of both are particularly offensive in their language, style," and so on in a long tirade without one word of praise. Of King Oscar we read that he is a poet of the highest rank; the particular excellences of his verse are all enumerated, and it is stated that there is a "perfectly masterly metric translation into German by Emil Jonas." A Norwegian residing in Saxony was struck with the strange character of these and other articles, and accordingly wrote to the publisher for information in regard to their authorship. The answer revealed the facts, (1) that Emil Jonas was the author of the articles, including the one on Oscar II., with its "eine ganz meisterhafte Uebersetzung"; (2) that the articles had been submitted to his Majesty before they were printed, and that he had read and approved them; and (3) that King Oscar had decorated the publisher, Mr. Spaarmann, with the Vasa order, in recognition of the excellent manner in which the Norwegian and Swedish portions had been cared for. These facts need no comment. Mr. Spaarmann's letter was written simply with a view to emphasizing the value of the work in regard to Norway, for he himself had no suspicion of the bias of his Scandinavian editor.

SYMONDS'S RENAISSANCE IN ITALY.

Renaissance in Italy. Italian Literature. By John Addington Symonds. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 2 vols., 8vo.

INSTEAD of the quotation from Machiavelli's 'Art of War,' "Questa provincia pare nata per risuscitare le cose morte, come si è visto della Poesia, della Pittura, e della Scultura," Mr. Symonds should have taken as a text a passage in Taine's Introduction to his 'History of English Literature': "The more a book represents important sentiments, the more it is the work of literature; for the proper office of literature is to take notice of sentiments." He is in full accord with the above maxim, and, imitating and following Taine's practices and ideas, he has dragged to light all the low, deservedly forgotten writings of the period of the Renaissance in Italy, provided they expressed sentiment of some sort—good, bad, indifferent, crazy, childish, and above all licentious—and displayed them for the admiration of refined modern readers. In this, therefore, he cannot claim the merit of originality, as any one may see by comparing Taine's chapter ii, on the English Theatre of the days of Beaumont and Fletcher with Mr. Symonds's reviews of the 'Mandragola,' 'Clizia,' 'Cortigiana' of the days of Aretino.

After a preliminary exposition of the three periods of growth, Mr. Symonds discusses the origin and formation of the Italian language. In this inquiry he adheres closely to his Italian authorities; but we are sorry to notice that he also follows them, and with a great deal of partisan spirit, into that bitter and wearisome contest about the Sicilian or Tuscan origin of the language, and whether as late as the Renaissance it should be called Tuscan or Italian, taking sides decidedly with the *Toscaneggianti*. We have neither space nor desire to enter into this discussion, noting only that the author takes issue even with the authority of Dante himself in this petty war that disgraced Italian literature for centuries, stating in reference to the origin of the Italian form of poetry in Sicily that "there is reason to believe that when Dante treated of the courtly Sicilian poets in his essay 'De Vulgari Eloquentia,' he knew their writings in a form already *Tuscanized*." That Dante, writing a few years after these Sicilian poets had sung, should have known less about their poems than we do, and given credit for creating this new form of language to the court of Frederick II. in Sicily rather than to his beloved native Tuscany, is a statement which we cannot accept.

In the second chapter, which the author entitles "The Triumvirate," he treats of the three fathers of Italian literature—Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio, with the addition of some of their contemporaries. But he is altogether too diffuse in his exposition, and seems to attach as much importance to the lesser as to the greater poets. Speaking of Dante's 'Commedia,' he says:

"We may, perhaps, feel a certain confusion between the personalities of Virgil and Beatrice and the thoughts they represent, which chills our sympathy, raising a feeling of indignation when Virgil returns *unwept* to Hell, and removing Beatrice into a world of intangible ideas" (p. 81).

"Unwept" is a very ill-considered expression, and the celebrity of the passage in the "Purgatorio" makes it seem all the more strange. In fact, the very first commentator we chanced to consult calls special attention: "all' arte del poeta in questa scena, e all' affetto che spirano tutti i suoi versi." Let us produce the passage. Dante has just beheld Beatrice in person, and at this point Virgil vanishes:

"I would have said (the words to my lips came),
No dram of blood that in my heart is left
Trembles not now—I feel that old-time flame,
But of his guidance Virgil had bereft
Both me and Statius, Virgil my control—
Virgil, my Father, whom as loved the most

For my salvation I had given my soul:
Nor all the joys our ancient Mother lost
Could save the cheeks he late had cleansed with dew
From turning back to darkness and to fears.
Dante! weep not that Virgil parts from you,
Weep thou not yet; however deep appears
This wound, a sharper sword must pierce thee
through."
(T. W. Parsons's translation.)

It is needless to repeat, after this quotation, that Virgil does not go back to the Limbo of the Poets unregretted or "unwept."

We doubt in this respect whether the author is fully capable of appreciating the greatness of Dante; for, though he dares not openly to avow it, yet he seems to lean more toward Petrarch. He makes "Petrarch the first Italian, while Dante remained a Florentine," saying that "from his [Petrarch's] lips was for the first time heard the passionate cry of *Italia mia*" (p. 87). Has Mr. Symonds wholly forgotten the meeting with Sordello, and Dante's indignant outburst of mingled bitterness and tenderness, so replete with the loftiest Italian patriotism, so steeped and throbbing with "la carità del natio loco"—

"Ah! serva Italia! di dolore ostello!
Nave senza nocchier in gran tempesta!"

In his endeavor to make out Dante a Florentine and Petrarch an Italian patriot, Mr. Symonds states that: "He [Dante] refused the poet's crown unless it could be taken by the font of baptism upon the square of Florence." And further on, repeating the statement, which the reader may suppose to be an historical fact, he deduces from it what follows:

"Thus, while Dante remained a Florentine, Petrarch was the first Italian. Nor is it insignificant that whereas Dante *refused* the poet's crown unless he could place the laurels on his head in Florence, Petrarch ascended the Capitol among the plaudits of the Romans, and, in the absence of Pope and Emperor, received the wreath from the Senator Romanus. Dante's renunciation and Petrarch's acceptance of this honor were equally appropriate" (p. 88).

When was Dante offered a poet's crown, and when did he renounce it? The only hint at such an honor is a desire of an obscure Latin poet, Giovanni del Virgilio, who in some of his Eclogues invited Dante to come to Bolognà and take the laurel crown. It was not even the University of Bologna, but the wish of a private person. Is it wonderful that Dante should refuse; and is such a refusal of sufficient importance to base upon it the provincialism of Dante? The only allusion to a wish for the laurel crown is in the twenty-fifth canto of the "Paradiso," in which Dante, "knowing partly," as Carlyle says, or, as Mr. Lowell says, fully, "that his work was the great, the greatest a man could do," felt convinced that after its publication it would mollify his fellow-citizens, and that, recalling him from his unjust exile, they would crown him with laurels in his "bel San Giovanni." But he died before his work was fully published, and his wish remained only a poet's prophetic vision.

Mr. Symonds treats of Boccaccio with a prolixity absolutely wearisome, dilating upon his every work with what may be called indecent minuteness. We find in this respect a most reprehensible tendency to sift out the most obscene specimens of the writings of that corrupt age, even from authors who do not deserve mention either for eminence, talent, or style. All but one or two of the authors in the third chapter, for instance, interesting as they may be to Italian scholars in the study of that epoch of transition in their literature, are of no value whatever to an English student, and worthy only to be left under the dust of the libraries where the Italians themselves have buried them. Why should we quote Alberti's disgusting 'Novelle' *usque ad nauseam*? his 'Ecatomfili' and 'Amiria'; and notice that "Heliogabalus might have used her precepts in his 'Concio ad Meretrices,'" even quoting in a note

(in the original) filthy passages, as if the Italian were a dead language that only one in a million understood? Was Alberti of such importance to the history of Italian literature? We never heard that he was a genius, nor has he ever been thought so, except by the fanatical worshippers of the *Cinquecento*. At the end of this chapter the author, with his wonted inclination for what is sensual, devotes fourteen pages to a disgusting effusion of a distempered brain, the 'Hypnerotomachia Poliphili' of Francesco Colonna, a vile monk. What has that to do with Italian literature, since it is written in a maccaronic Italo-Latin jargon?

The chapter on "Popular Secular Poetry" is a fair exposition of the popular literature of the *Quattrocento*, demonstrating that, while the upper classes used a bad Latinism, the people of all Italy kept up the Italian language. Though, with his Tuscan bias, in one place Mr. Symonds says "that the music of these lyrics still lingers about in the Tuscan highlands and the shores of Sicily," he then speaks of "the romances of Charlemagne and Arthur being translated into Tuscan," and further on calls Tuscan the *Rispetti*, *Stornelli*, *Ciuri*, which are of Southern origin. Why should they be called Tuscan and not Italian? This study of popular songs, or folklore, lately illustrated by such eminent writers as Professor D'Ancona, Carducci, Pitre, and others, is exceedingly interesting, and the author has made a good use of their works.

In continuation of this study Mr. Symonds dedicates a full chapter of eighty pages and an appendix of eleven more to "Popular Religious Poetry." But where is the poetry in all the doggerel and worse of the 'Sacred Representations' of that period of decadence? As an example of this, after a description of the religious fanatics called *Flagellanti*—crazy people who went about half naked scourging themselves to death—he enumerates a long string of forgotten authors of what he calls religious poetry, beginning with Jacopone da Todi, in this wise:

"From the *Laudesi* [hymn-writers] of the fourteenth century rose one great lyric poet, Jacopone da Todi, whose hymns embrace the whole gamut of religious passion, from tender emotions of love to sombre anticipations of death and thrilling visions of judgment. Reading him we listen to the true lyrical cry of the people's heart in its intolerance of self-restraint, blending the language of erotic ecstasy with sobs and sighs of soul-consuming devotion, aspiring to heaven on wings sped by the energy of human desire. The flight of his inebriated piety transcends and outsoars the strongest pinion of ecclesiastic hymnology. Such lines as—

Fac me plagis vulnerari
Cruce hac inebriari
Ob amorem illi—

do but supply the theme for Jacopone's descant. Violently discordant notes clash and mingle in his chords, and are resolved in bursts of ardor bordering on delirium. He leaps from the grotesque of plebeian imagery to pictures of sublime pathos, from incoherent gasping to sentences pregnant with shrewd knowledge of the heart, by sudden and spontaneous transitions which reveal the religious sentiment in its simplest form, unspoiled by dogma, unstiffened by scholasticism. None, for example, but a true child of the people could have found the following expression of a desire to suffer with Christ:

O Signor per cortesia
Mandame la maisania.

A me la freve quartana
la contina e la ferrana
la doppia cottidiana
Colla grande ydropisia.

A me venga il mal de dente
Mal de capo e mal de ventre
a lo stomaco dolor pungente
en canna l'asquaintia.

Mal de occhi e doglia de fianco
e la postema al lato manco
tyaico me longa enaico
e omne tempo la frenesia.

Agia el fegato rescaldato
la milza grossa el ventre enfiato,
lo polmone sia piagato
con gran tosse e parlata" (p. 285).

Is the author serious, or making fun of his readers? Paolo Emiliani-Giudici, in his 'History of Italian Literature,' Lesson Third, says:

"Since I have mentioned religious poetry, the subject leads me naturally to speak of two authors [Jacopone da Todi and Guido d'Arezzo] whom nobody now reads in Italy, and, nevertheless, especially of one of them, they rave about (*si farnetica*) out of Italy in the most incredible manner.

"The eloquent Villemain, fourteen years ago, portrayed before an elegant assemblage in Paris the aspect of European literature in the Middle Ages, with that refined and brilliant art, that charming brightness, that distinguishes the French. Returning home after having delivered the twelfth lesson of his literary course, he found a letter in which he was bitterly reproached for not having spoken of a certain monk, Jacopone da Todi, from whose poems Dante had derived his inspiration. Let those who know the fantastic brains of that illustrious country imagine the case of the good Villemain, who, until that day, had never heard of the wonderful Jacopone. He immediately procured a copy of his works, and began to peruse them with surprising patience. He read, reread, searched, scrutinized, and then he returned to read, to search, to scrutinize, to investigate, here, there, up and down, with the passion and good-faith of an antiquary who examines the ruins of an ancient edifice, but the looked-for inspiration did not appear. Accordingly, trusting in the honesty of his own convictions, in the full expectation of being hissed by those who sent him the letter, he presented himself to the assemblage, and, after a short but exquisite apology, he announced candidly that Dante, like himself, had absolutely ignored the works of the monk, and that he was the clown of that mystic style of which Dante was the poet: 'C'était, si vous le voulez, le bouffon du genre dont le Dante était le poète.'"

It is noteworthy that, after the extravagant praises given to Jacopone and his contemporaries, Mr. Symonds concludes his long chapter in these terms:

"As an apology for the space here devoted to the analysis of plays childish in their subject-matter, prosaic in their treatment, and fruitless of results, it may be urged that in the 'Sacre Rappresentazioni' better than elsewhere we can study the limitations of the popular Italian genius at the moment when the junction was effected between humanism and the spirit of the people."

And to show these "limitations" the author has thought it necessary to fill nearly one hundred pages with trash, for which four pages would have been all-sufficient.

We have no space to follow our author in the portrayal of the Italian epic literature of the Renaissance, noting only that, though it was a revival of letters, the subject-matter was not of Italian origin, not Dantesque, but foreign, derived from the stories of Charlemagne and the Paladins of the Round Table, which pleased the despots of the period, who endeavored thus to revive the feudalism of the Middle Ages. All the poets of this literature were servants in their courts, and wrote to please and flatter them, and not to instruct the people, which is the true aim of literature, in spite of Mr. Taine and the school of sentimentalists. It was, therefore, destined to decay and expire, as it did, in the vast sheep-fold of Arcadianism, feebly piping and bleating itself to death. The true Italian genius revived only in the present century from the pure Italian sources of the *Trecento*.

In the second volume Mr. Symonds continues his upturning of obscure Italian names, of no consequence whatever in literature, and only interesting to antiquarians, or people who morbidly gloat over debasing reading. He himself acknowledges this after a long review of the 'Novelle' of Biondello, saying: "But the majority of these tales are simply obscene, with no point but a coarse picture or a shockingly painful climax." Why mention them at all, then, if they had neither literary merit nor influence in literature? Yet, for page after page, he rakes the gutters for the unread and forgotten Italian scribblers of

the period, among others, the "indescribable licentious novelists of Siena," the forgotten Sermini and Fortini, "whose best passages from the *Ars Amandi* admit of no quotations"; the Lombard Cornazano, whose "carefully-wrought sixteen stories are very droll, but very dirty." Then he continues with a chapter on the Drama, still preferring the *Cinquecento* filth—the 'Talanta,' the 'Clizia,' the 'Mandragola,' the 'Calandra,' the 'Cortigiana,' quoting in the original Italian some of their indecencies, and taking more pains about Aretino's disgusting comedies than about the 'Aminta' of Tasso. Even in the next chapter, treating of "Pastoral and Didactic Poetry," he quotes Pontano's lascivious Latin works, the 'Fannia,' 'Focilla,' 'Ariadne,' the three books 'De Amore Conjugali,' etc., of which we do not see the slightest relation to Italian literature.

In chapter xiii, on the Purists, we feared that Mr. Symonds would resuscitate the old pedantic war on style and words that stifled the true literature of that period; but, fortunately for the reader, he stops short, acknowledging that "to stir the dust of those obsolete controversies on the language of Italy is no part of his present purpose." He enumerates a long string of poetasters, male and female, who, with one or two exceptions, deserve the oblivion to which they have been relegated. Why even mention the courtesan Tullia d'Aragona, who, he says, "ruled society in Rome, and lived in infamy in Venice"? What society did she rule in Rome, except that of the *demi-monde* and the *roués*? And what verses did she write worthy to be recorded even among the poetasters? There is only one deserving of mention among the women, Vittoria Colonna, and though Mr. Symonds does her justice, yet we regret that, having filled his two bulky volumes with worthless quotations, he should not have given us some of her charming sonnets.

In the chapter on burlesque poetry and satire, reviewing Berni only briefly toward the end, scarcely mentioning Tassoni, and leaving out Redi entirely, the only three poets worthy of note, Mr. Symonds fills the whole chapter with the licentious filth of the macaronic poet, Girolamo Folengo, and lesser ones of the same tribe, as if it was his intention to show to what depths of degradation the Italo-Latin muse had sunk in the hands of these dissolute verse-makers. He even seems to regret that modern decency does not allow him to quote more of this stuff, for he says on page 330: "It is unfortunately impossible to bring either the cook-shop-keeper or his female servant, the mountebank or the glutton, before modern readers. These pictures are too Rabelaisian."

In the same spirit Mr. Symonds quotes, of all the charming satires of Berni, the most scurrilous one, which he addressed to the foul-mouthed Aretino, whom, in turn, Mr. Symonds has considered worthy of a full chapter of forty-five pages, which he has not allowed to any other author of the Renaissance, detailing his life, his habits, his poems, his blackmailings, even his traditional death in "a house of ill fame, kept by his two sisters" at Venice. It is surprising that in a book which treats of literature of the period of Ariosto, Tasso, Guarini, Bojardo, Bembo, Castiglione, Trissino, Michelangelo and Vittoria Colonna, Aretino should occupy so much space. The effect is as if we should be suddenly and unexpectedly transported from the classical picture gallery of the Neapoltan Museum to the Pompeian *Gabinetto Osceno*. What most astonishes us is that the author acknowledges that "Aretino contrived to render himself formidable by reckless evil-speaking; and, while he had no learning and no style, he managed to pass for a writer of distinction."

The volumes end with a chapter on "History

and Philosophy," and another, a "Retrospect of the Renaissance Literature." They are the best in the whole work, the first especially, showing that the author has made good use of the exhaustive study of Machiavelli, by Prof. Villari, the 'History of Italian Literature,' by De Sanctis, and the Italian authors mentioned in the preface. In conclusion, let us say that the two bulky volumes contain a mass of heterogeneous information which, if sifted, purified, and reduced in amount to 400 pages, might be very instructive; for Mr. Symonds is a most learned scholar and delightful writer, his industry is marvellous, and the patience with which he has dived into the most hidden recesses of history very praiseworthy. But his discrimination is faulty, and the proclivity to what is indelicate absolutely reprehensible.

Corea: The Hermit Nation. By W. E. Griffis. Charles Scribner's Sons.

EVEN the enthusiastic inquirer into the history and ways of any nation of the Far East takes up a book of comprehensive information with the feeling that he has a weary road to travel before he has ploughed through the dry as dust details of religion and morals, dress and demeanor, habits and customs, traditions and history. Here, for once, he need not fear. This author should be engaged by some benevolent lover of students to make such learning a pastime and not a task, by writing a text-book for each one of the Asiatic nations. His sense of humor—not too broad—his power of condensation without loss of interest, his judgment in enlarging, his apt and complete metaphors, make him the most pleasing of guides in a strange land. In writing of Corea he had, to be sure, the peculiar advantage of a complete knowledge of Japanese affairs, and in fact is so much identified in feeling with that country that as one reads he sometimes feels as if it were a "Jap" that was speaking. But there is sufficient Western individuality to show that he could make himself competent to discourse of other portions of the Far East with nearly equal success. Corea, in itself, though interesting, is not peculiarly so, either from its history or the character of its people. It owes the retention of its nationality through so long a period mainly to its peculiar situation on an isolated peninsula, partly to the indifference of China, which preferred to leave it independent as a buffer against Japan, and in a less degree to a quality of patient endurance in its people, rather than active courage, which saved it at various epochs from the attacks of the fierce warriors of Japan. The principal invasion from that country, however, which happened in 1592-1598, and which reminds one in many of its details of the invasion of Mexico by Cortes, would probably have been successful but for the help given by China. One singular circumstance connected with that expedition is that one of its two leaders was a Christian, and an ardent one at that, much given to proselytizing; and as the other was an equally ardent Buddhist, there was no love lost between them, and to their mutual ill-will are ascribed many of the misfortunes which befell the Japanese. One learns with some surprise that Corea was the nursery of Japan in the arts and sciences and in religion, in such early times as the ninth century, conveying the learning of India and China across the narrow seas to her then more barbarous neighbor.

Coming down to present times, Mr. Griffis tells well the story of the French expedition, and almost piratical foray, as well as of "our little war with the heathen," being the history of the gallant but unjustifiable retribution inflicted on the Coreans because of the burning of the American schooner *General Sherman*. There was, to be

sure, the excuse of a misunderstanding, but, viewed from Mr. Griffis's standard of international ethics, an inexcusable excuse. Mr. Griffis considers the country ripe for change. The King and the nobles are all in all, while the people are nothing, and even the King's authority has suffered by the encroachment of the feudal power. He says a native caricature thus depicts the situation:

"Chōsen (Corea) is represented as a human being of whom the King is the head, the nobles the body, and the people the legs and feet. The breast and belly are full, while both head and lower limbs are gaunt and shrunken. The nobles not only drain the life-blood of the people by their rapacity, but they curtail the royal prerogative."

He sums up the state of education as follows:

"The present position of Chōsen is that of Europe in the Middle Ages. The Confucian temples and halls of scholars, the memorial stones and walls inscribed with historical tablets and moral maxims, the lectures and discussions of literary coteries, and the poetry parties, concentrate learning rather than diffuse it. Nothing like the number of bookstores, circulating libraries, private schools, or ordinary means of diffusing intelligence, common in China and Japan, exists in Corea. Science and the press, newspapers and hospitals, clocks and petroleum, and, more than all, churches and school-houses have yet a mighty work to do in the land of morning calm."

In 1876 the Japanese exacted a treaty of friendship and commerce, and the port of Fusan, at the southeastern corner of the peninsula, was opened to them to be followed by Gensan on the east coast, in 1880, and Inchun, on the west coast, and twenty-five miles from the capital, at the end of the same year. The Chinese and Americans followed suit in this present year, and the nations of Europe will be included before it expires. With such elements of change from the outside world and disaffection within, it needs no prophet to foretell revolution within a limited period of time; and as those who are to be overthrown have lived by the sword, it is likely that it will be by the sword that they will perish. As respects her future connection with the world at large we think Mr. Griffis overvalues Corea's position in the East. He thinks that "on her soil will be decided the problem of supremacy by the jealous rivals, China, Japan, and Russia." If ever appropriated by either, we think it is likely it will be done by whichever Power has already, on other fields, attained that supremacy. There is good chance, however, that neither rival will so far overcome one of the others as to leave it free to act with the Korean peninsula without regard to the views of the third and that between them Korean independence has a long existence before it.

The Mississippi. By Lieut. F. V. Greene, U. S. A. [Vol. VIII. of the Campaigns of the Civil War.] Charles Scribner's Sons.

In the new realms of space in four dimensions there may be vast possibilities for military genius, but Vicksburg belongs to the commonplace, and offers access from the customary points of the compass. If, then, west, north, and east had been tried unsuccessfully, it would seem that a resort to the south was not so much the choice of a general as a necessity of geography. Hence the establishment of a base of operations at Grand Gulf. Finally, the race experience, left to clarify through the slow years, deposits a proverbial sediment such as, "the longest way round is the shortest way home," in instinctive deference to which the Union troops, instead of taking a bee-line direct for Vicksburg across the Big Black Valley, go round *via* Jackson, using the various means of communication thence to their objective point, and then leaving these wholly

unavailable by the enemy gathering in their rear.

All this was very cleverly done and is quite plainly described by Lieut. Greene. It does not seem probable that the Union troops could have manoeuvred better, or the Confederates have been handled worse. The result was the surrender of Vicksburg in due process of time, as well as Port Hudson. As these things were certain to follow, unless the Confederate Government previously accumulated an adequate relieving force, a tender economist of human life might have been tempted to wish that a sociable blockade could have been agreed upon, with the understanding that in the usual forty days, unless interfered with by outsiders, or that when the party of the one part had starved long enough, the party of the other part quietly holding its own, the inevitable surrender should follow with all proper form. This would have saved a heartache or two, but the roses of garlands earned in war must always be red.

Port Hudson was bound up in the fortunes of Vicksburg, of course, and also contributed largely to the surgical education of the country, being mainly another siege in which the assaulting troops reached the ditch promptly enough, but never got any further, unless a peep over (as at Corinth or Manassas) revealed the enemy's absence. True, there are some exceptions. Terry's brigadiers carry the proofs thereof with them to this day.

The maps of this volume are not particularly better than those of its predecessors. Their information is much like that of a wrecked guide-board. As to the text generally, we should say it lacks exactly that which is to be found very frequently, and always most happily, in the author's 'Army Life in Russia'—touches of local color, namely, that make the narrative more of a picture and less of a directory. There are two kinds of detail: the dry, arithmetical sort, and the detail which links you to the history so closely that its characters seem part and parcel of your own experience, and it is you yourself who storm Badajos with Napier, or drive back the Russians at Inkerman with Kinglake, or press toward the Sadowa bridge with Prince Frederick Charles and Hozier. This latter is the sort of detail of which there is none too much in any of the Scribner series. 'The Mississippi,' however, does not profess to be other than a compilation of facts and the interpretation of them. For the former the official archives are responsible, and only they who have undertaken the labor of reference and verification know anything of the drudgery involved. The task in this instance has certainly fallen into careful, and the interpretation into competent, hands, and if the description lacks somewhat of the glow of the forge, it is marked by the accuracy of the cabinet.

In the issues of Vicksburg siege, Port Hudson may have been a mere episode, but there was plenty of material for dramatic treatment. In some respects its history was a curious parallel to that of Vicksburg, and the points of difference are quite worthy of consideration. General Grant passed the Mississippi to the south, and moved east to Jackson, returning thence to the river. General Banks for like reasons went west to Alexandria, and then, falling back, crossed the Mississippi to the north and closed in on Port Hudson. But General Grant penned up the Confederates in Vicksburg, after hammering them soundly, as was his wont, while General Banks only elbowed them out of his way. Introducing himself direct to the enemy at Bisland, he sent the Fourth Division round by Grand Lake on the right to disembark at Indian Bend on the Teche Bayou, up which lay General Taylor's only line of retreat. The Teche at this point presents to the landing a V with impass-

able swamps for the background. The Fourth Division moved down the left arm towards the lower extremity of which Taylor was met, hurriedly retiring before the main body of the Federals. With some friction he rubbed by straight across the angle and went thankfully on his way, soon, however, to return. Had the Fourth Division taken the other horn of the dilemma, the subsequent reconstruction of General Taylor might have been a matter of more difficulty.

But New Orleans, with a population of some 200,000 hostiles—women and children worse than the men—gave to the situation before General Banks elements of very serious perplexity that were absent from the Vicksburg complication. Fortunately, General Butler had preceded General Banks, and New Orleans was still torpid from the vigorous throttling administered by the former commander. That problem of New Orleans, and how it was solved by the present Governor-elect of Massachusetts, deserves close study, but lies outside of our limits, except to note that the tranquillity of this city, which helped things along mightily for General Banks, was not so much his achievement as the legacy of his astute predecessor.

Some 24,000 men were gathered about Port Hudson in May. There were some 8,000 fit for duty when that place surrendered in July. The rest were scattered through graveyards and hospitals, not altogether the victims of bullet and shell, but rather the prey of disease incident to climate and exposure. The men from Arkansas and Missouri got through a troglodyte existence very comfortably in the barrows of the ravines with their daily handful of ears of corn, but the young pilgrim from New England missed the snug comfort and plenty of the old farmhouse. The transition to camp life and cookery was much less of a shock to Pike County than to Berkshire, and it told accordingly. The Arkansas Traveller was more at home in mud and rain than Sam Lawson.

Jewish and Christian History. Vols. i. and ii.: Bible Narrative and Jewish History; vol. iii.: the Gospel Story and Christian History. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co. 1882.

WE are not surprised that there is in this book no indication whatever of its author or authors. It is all the work of scissors, excepting a few lines of introduction, the headings, and possibly a little more in the third volume, to which we confess we have not extended our examination. "No originality is claimed" for the scissors in the Introduction, but considerable familiarity with "authorities for the Old-Testament volumes," including "Xenophon, Grote, 'Bampton Lectures,' Plumptre, Book of Enoch, Milman, Brugsch's 'Egypt,' . . . Kuenen, Conant, Raymond's 'Job,' Stanley, Ewald, Westcott, Noyes, Thalheimer." The scissors' familiarity with such authorities as Xenophon or Kuenen seems to be infinitesimal: from Kuenen three lines have been taken, we believe; but Stanley's works, Smith's 'Old-Testament History,' 'Bible Educator,' and 'Encyclopædia' (which, whose, or what kind we are not told) have been mercilessly cut up, at random, for notes. Miss Thalheimer, who is ranged as an authority between Noyes and Sears, has been made to contribute some pages on Simon, Hyrcanus, Aristobulus, etc., and Herod and his family, introduced thus: "The remainder of the Book of Maccabees is taken from Thalheimer's Ancient History"—the scissors having confounded the Book (*sic*) of Maccabees with Josephus's narratives on the later history of that house and its exterminator.

The scissors and the heading-writer together have confounded less congruous things than those. Thus, chapter xxiii. is devoted to "Zachariah, the Favorite Prophet of King Uzziah in his

Prosperous Days," and consists entirely of pieces cut out of the book of Zechariah—like all other cuttings, pell-mell, without reference to verse, chapter, or book—and beginning thus: "Upon the four and twentieth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Sebat, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah," etc. Now, "the second year of Darius" was 520 B. C., and King Uzziab, whose favorite prophet Zechariah is here said to have been, died in "B. C. 758," as a little cutting from Smith's Bible Dictionary correctly informs us at the beginning of the following chapter. Whence this confusion? Critics have established the fact that there was more than one prophet Zechariah, and that one was a contemporary of King Uzziab, and our heading-writer, finding a sensational sentence referring to this one, placed it over the cutting from the Zechariah who prophesied two hundred and forty years later. Things referring to two Assyrian kings are equally mixed up in the chapter headed, "The Expedition of Sargon; the Invasion of Sennacherib," etc.—a confusion not remedied by the quotation from Smith, whose remark caused it. All the pieces taken from Isaiah, in the chapter devoted to him, are from those portions of the book of that name which all but universal critical opinion ascribes to much later authorship.

On a level with the chronological sense which determined the order of the pieces is the taste which dictated the selections. We have two pages (one in a supplement) from Isaiah, and the apocryphal "Prayer of Manasseh" in its full dreary length; the noblest and most lucid sentences of Micah are left out, and the following given, without a word of explanation: "Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops; he hath laid siege against us; they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek." The book is for "the young," but while no note, under "Nabum," tells them what Elkoshite means, or Put, or Lubin, they are informed in a cutting, in connection with the Wisdom of Solomon, of "Vach, or Sarasvati, the goddess of speech, the Sakti, or female form of Brah-

ma, . . . corresponding to the Avalokitesvara, or Kwan Yin, the Sakti of Amitabha, of the later Buddhists—"the manifested voice (of the Deity)," etc., etc. The quotation may possibly be correct, though the only two quotations which we have compared with the source—those from Stanley, in the chapter on Micah—are disfigured by misconnection and by verbal additions equally useless and tasteless.

Art and Nature in Italy. By Eugene Benson. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1882.

MR. BENSON'S little book is an appreciative and discriminating record of impressions and reflections on Art and Nature in Italy. The surpassing beauty of the country, together with its touching and significant historic associations, its pathetic and noble monuments, and its interesting conditions of human life—especially in the rural districts—do not appeal in vain to his sympathetic and discerning mind. His language is expressive and often forcible, and in his descriptive passages, which are numerous, the word painting is clear and beautiful. Mr. Benson's observations on art and artists are generally suggestive and just, especially those concerning Giorgione, Carpaccio, and Titian. His estimate of the character and influence of the art of Fortuny is also remarkably clear-sighted, and we think it will be especially helpful at the present time, when the bizarre, extravagant, and tasteless impulse derived from that and kindred sources is telling so harmfully on our modern arts. There are some minor points in which Mr. Benson seems less clear-sighted, as where, in his fondness for tracing a painter's antecedents, he fancies he finds the prototypes of Raphael's "thin trees" at Urbino, his birthplace. Raphael really got his thin trees from his master Perugino. The book is not profound, but it is true in spirit, and very pleasant to read.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Anson, Sir W. R. *Principles of the English Law of Contract and of Agency in its Relation to Contract.* Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 Armsby-Jenkins. *The Farmer's Annual Hand-book for 1883.* D. Appleton & Co.

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 Brockhaus' *Conversations-Lexikon.* Parts 24-41 (end of Vol. III.). Leipzig: F. A. Brockhaus; New York: L. W. Schmidt.
 Coxhead, Ethel. *Birds and Babies.* London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.
 Geer, G. P. *Analysis of the Science of Accounts.* Holyoke, Mass.: Clark W. Bryan & Co.
 Gibbon, C. *The Golden Shaft.* Harper's Franklin Square Library. 20 cents.
 Gray, Barry. *His Works.* In five volumes. Illustrated. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.
 Holland, T. E. *The Elements of Jurisprudence.* Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 Lee, Margaret. *Divorce.* J. W. Lovell Co. 50 cents.
 M. C. S. *Hymns, Home, Harvard.* "Farwell." Boston: A. Williams & Co.
 Meghadûta, the Cloud Messenger. Poem of Kâlidâsa. London: Trübner & Co.
 Minchin, G. M. *Uniplanar Kinematics of Solids and Fluids.* Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 Minton, M. M. *The List: A Visiting and Shopping Directory for 1883.* G. P. Putnam's sons.
 Monro, D. B. *A Grammar of the Homeric Dialect.* Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 Rice, W. H. *Boys in the Mountains and on the Plains.* D. Appleton & Co. \$2 50.
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 Seyppel, C. M. *Schlau, Schläuer, am Schlänsten.* Aegyptische Humoreske. R. Westermann & Co. \$1 50.
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 Simmons, H. M. *The Unending Genesis; or, Creation Ever Present.* Chicago: The College Book Co.
 Sizer, N. *Forty Years in Pheology.* Fowler & Wells. \$1 50.
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 Southworth, Mrs. Emma D. E. N. *Self-Made; or, Out of the Depths.* 2 vols. Philadelphia: Peterson. \$3 50.
 The Gospel by Mark, according to the Authorized Version, in Phonetic Spelling. Funk & Wagnalls. 15 cts.
 The Standard Series of New Testament Helps. No. 73. Funk & Wagnalls. 20 cents.
 The Musical Favorite: A New Collection of Music for the Piano-Forte. Boston: Oliver Ditson & Co.
 Waddington, S. Arthur Hugh Clough. London: Geo. Bell & Sons.
 Wagner-Macdonell. *Epics and Romances of the Middle Ages.* Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. \$3.
 Zola, E. *In the Whirlpool.* Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bros. 75 cents.

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